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AI YORI AOSHI

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17

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All great harem stories must come to a close ..Aoi has made her choice and Kaoru has arrived, but will they be able to determine their own fate? Kaoru's younger brother swears that as head of the Hanabishi, he will take everything Kaoru has, including Aoi, no matter where they try to run And when the former residents of the boarding house reunite, will the memories they share bring happiness . or tears?

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AI YORI AOSHI

By Kou Fumizuki

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AI YORI AOSHI™

VOLUME 17

STORY & ART
BY
KOU FUMIZUKI

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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Summary of the story so far...

Uzume (Ferret)

It was being raised by Tina, but now for some reason it has gotten attached to Miyabi

Taeko Minazuki

A third year student in the photography club. She's clumsy and awkward, but she tries her hardest at everything she does

Tina Foster

A fourth-year student at Meiritsu University. She, like Kaoru, is in the photography club. An American who was raised in Hakata.

Chika Minazuki

Taeko's cousin, a student in her first year of high school. An energetic girl who always has a tan. She's staying in the boarding house next to the Sakuraba manor.

Natsuki Komiya

Chika's classmate and fellow member of the swimming club. She's always bright and energetic. She's under the misguided assumption that Kaoru is Chika's boyfriend.

Chizuru Aizawa

Chika's classmate. She was invited by Chika to join the swimming club even though she can't swim. She has a gentle, quiet personality.

Mayu Miyuki

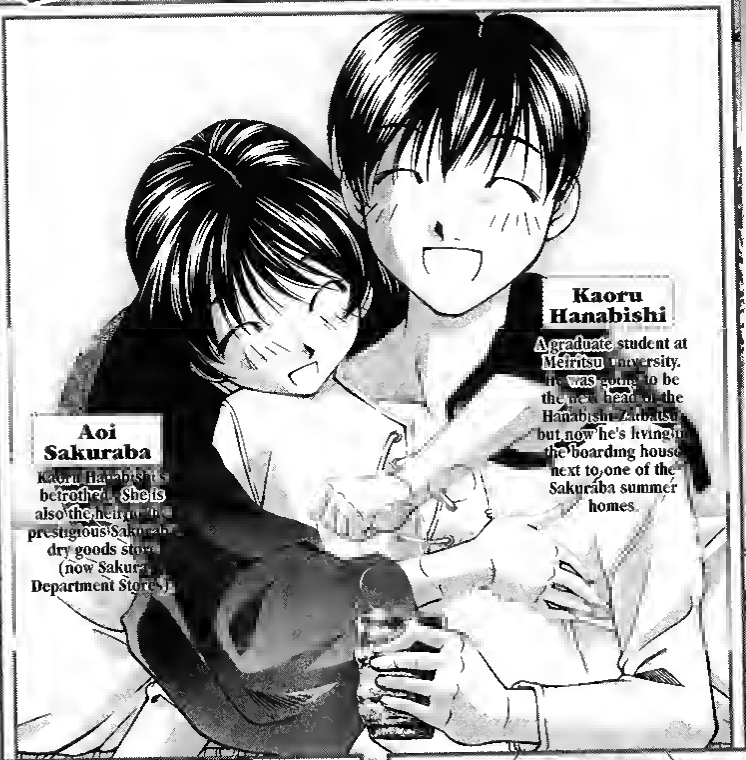
The daughter of the head of Miyuki Fabrics. She entered Meiritsu University at the age of sixteen through a special consideration for students who have lived abroad. She met Kaoru when she was little, and even now she is in love with him.

Kaoru Hanabishi was torn away from his mother when he was very young and raised as the heir of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu; however, he found he was unable to endure the harsh responsibilities placed on him, and he ran away from home to live by himself. He continued life in this fashion right up until the arrival of Aoi Sakuraba, who had been his betrothed and who loved him for eighteen years. Kaoru was blown away by her devotion, but her request for him to go back to the Hanabishi was the one thing he could not do. Aoi recognized the pain this caused Kaoru, so she decided to leave her own family, the Sakuraba, instead. Rather than lose her daughter, Aoi's mother conceded to allow the two of them to live together.

The couple moved to a western-style house that had previously been one of the Sakuraba's summer homes, and they now share the estate with Aoi's guardian, Miyabi Kagurazaki. There is a catch, though—while Aoi and Miyabi live in the main house, Kaoru has to live in the boarding house adjacent to it.

Shortly after, Tina Foster and Taeko Minazuki, members of Kaoru's photography club, moved into the boarding house as well. Mayu Miyuki has returned from England, and Taeko's cousin, Chika Minazuki, has joined the group of friends. In order to avoid creating a scandal for the Sakuraba family, Aoi must keep up the pretense that she is Kaoru's landlady, and not his fiancée. But ironically, the more women that gather around Kaoru, the deeper his and Aoi's feelings for each other become.

Some time has passed since the charade began. However, now that the head of Haoabishi, Kaoro's grandfather, has passed away, Kaoru's younger half-brother is due to become the heir to the family estate. The only thing between him and his fate is a stipulation in their grandfather's will that he cannot receive his inheritance unless he marries Aoi. To try to make this happen, he has lured her to the Hanabishi manor and confined her to the premises...

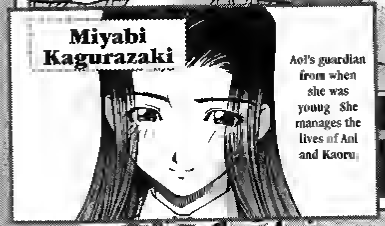


Kaoru Hanabishi

A graduate student at Meiritsu University. He was going to be the next head of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu, but now he's living in the boarding house next to one of the Sakuraba summer homes.

Aoi Sakuraba

Kaoru Hanabishi's betrothed. She is also the heir to the prestigious Sakuraba dry goods store (now Sakuraba Department Store).



Miyabi Kagurazaki

Aoi's guardian from when she was young. She manages the lives of Aoi and Kaoru.

"Kaoru" Hanabishi

Kaoru's half-brother. After the older Kaoru left the Hanabishi, the younger sibling was named as the heir. The only catch is, according to their grandfather's will, he cannot inherit the family estate unless he marries Aoi.

Chapter 134: Gakai—Fatal Flaw

AI YORI AOSHI

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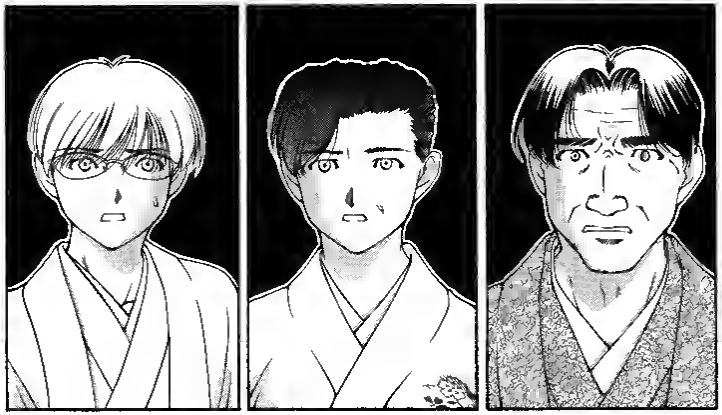
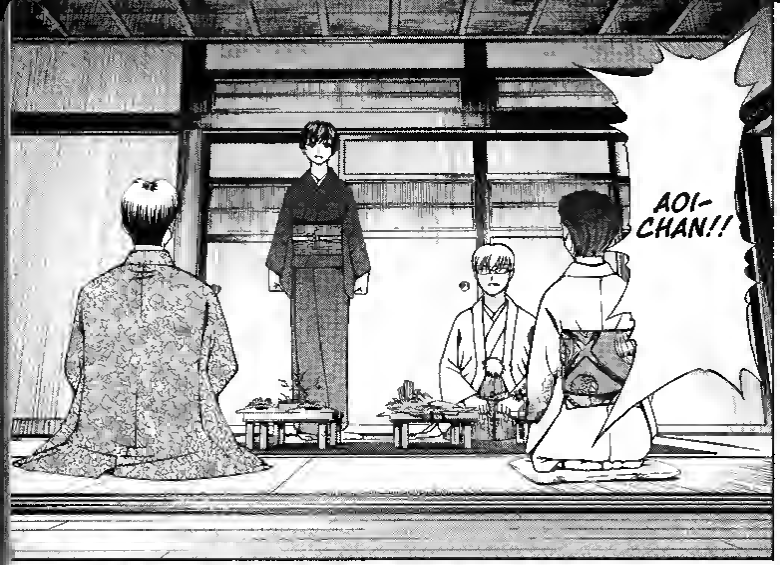
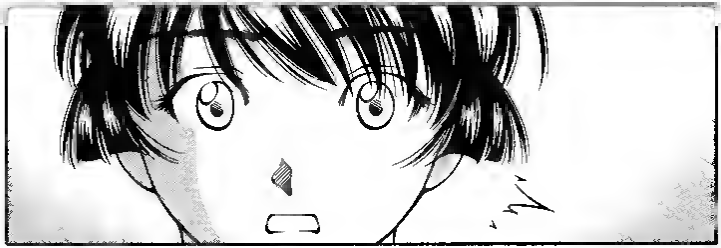
EVEN IF IT MEANS THROWING EVERYTHING AWAY... AOI MUST BE WITH KAORU-SAMA.




AOI-CHAN!!

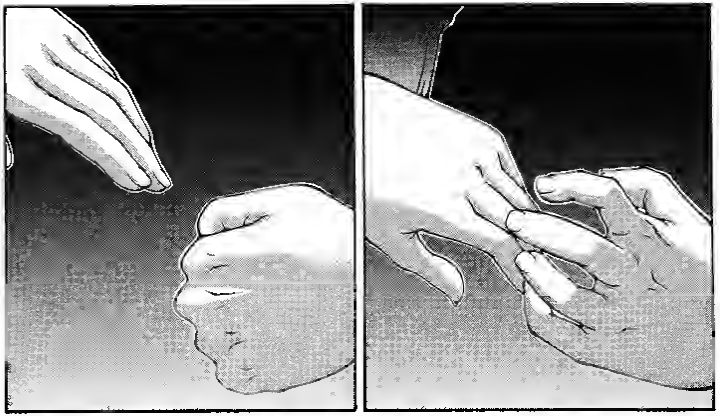


KAORU-SAMA!

WHAA---?!
KAORU-SAN?!

STOP!!

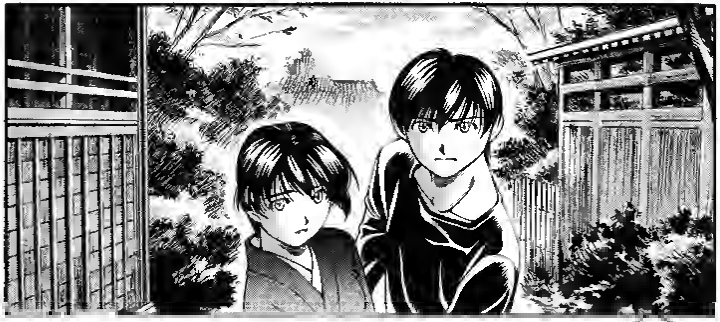
KAORU-SAMA!



AOI-CHAN!
KAORU-SAMA!

KAORU-SAMA!
KAORU-SAMA!
KAORU-SAMAAA!
...AOI-CHAN.
GRIT

KAORU-SAMAAA!!



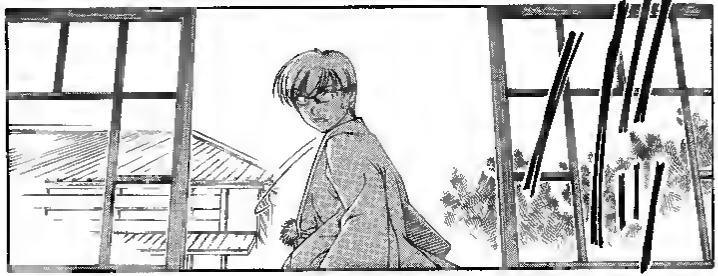
WHY...?
WHY DO YOU STEAL EVERY-THING?

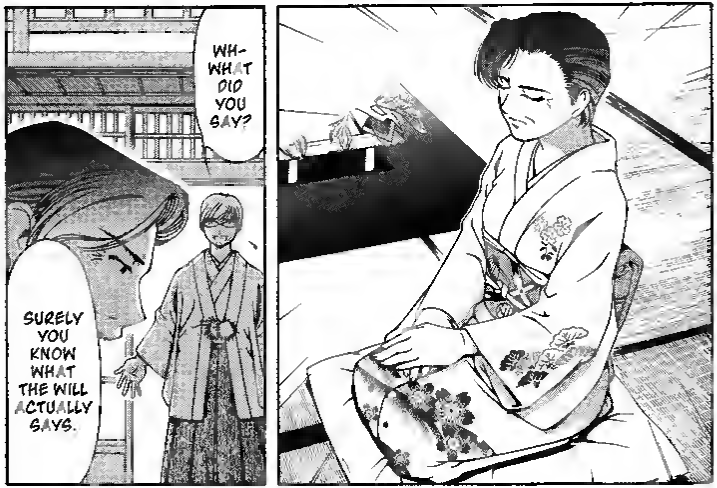
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
I'LL ALWAYS HATE YOU.
YOU NEVER STOP UNTIL IT'S ALL GONE!

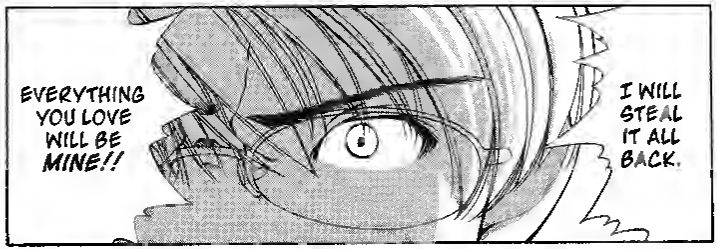
WHY?

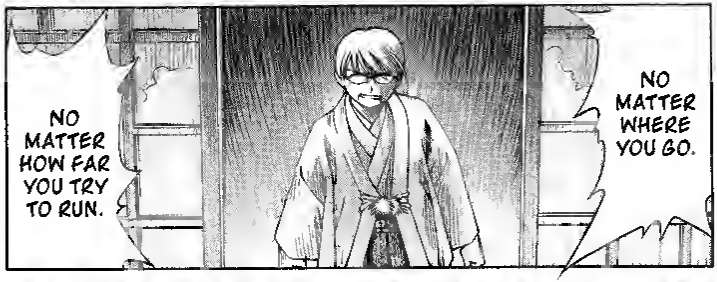
WHYYYY?!?!

!!
YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED.

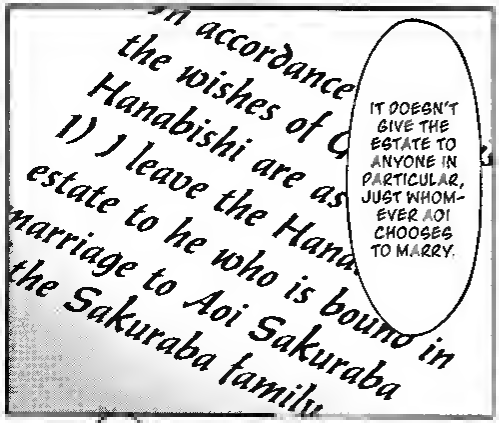



WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SURELY YOU KNOW WHAT THE WILL ACTUALLY SAYS.

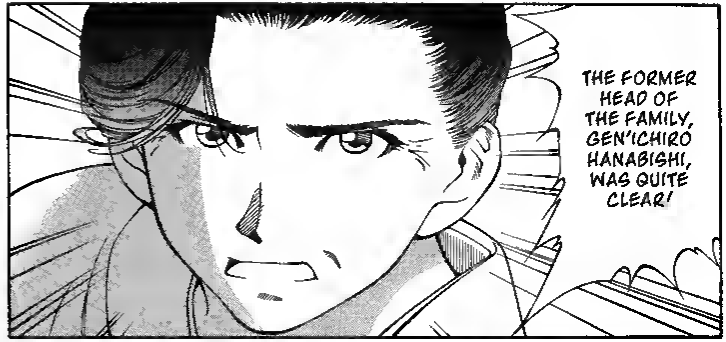

EVERYTHING YOU LOVE WILL BE MINE!!
I WILL STEAL IT ALL BACK.


NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU TRY TO RUN.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.

I CONTROL YOU! I AM THE HEAD OF THE HANABISHI FAMILY!!


In accordance
the wishes of G
Hanabishi are as
1) I leave the Hana
estate to he who is bound in
marriage to Aoi Sakuraba
the Sakuraba family
IT DOESN'T GIVE THE ESTATE TO ANYONE IN PARTICULAR, JUST WHOMEVER AOI CHOOSES TO MARRY.

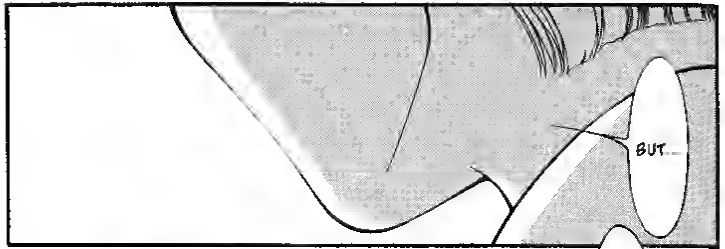
WHAT WILL?

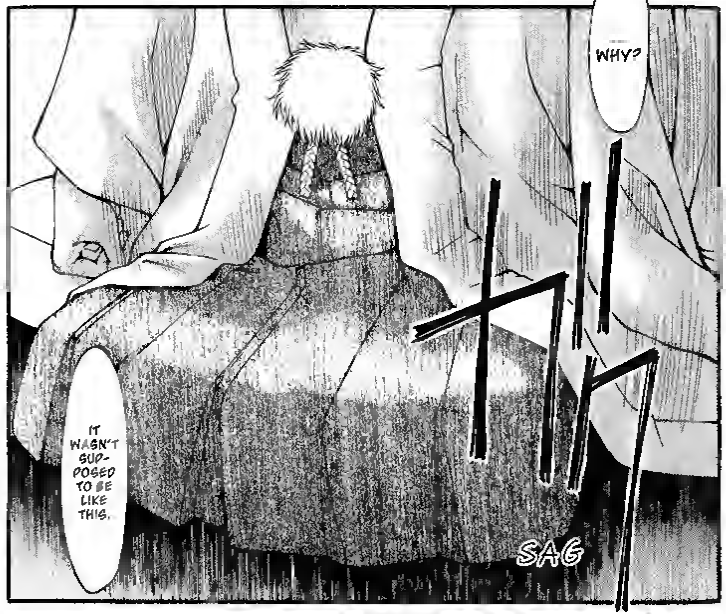

THE FORMER HEAD OF THE FAMILY, GEN'ICHIRO HANABISHI, WAS QUITE CLEAR!

ISN'T THAT WHAT IT SAYS, DEAR?

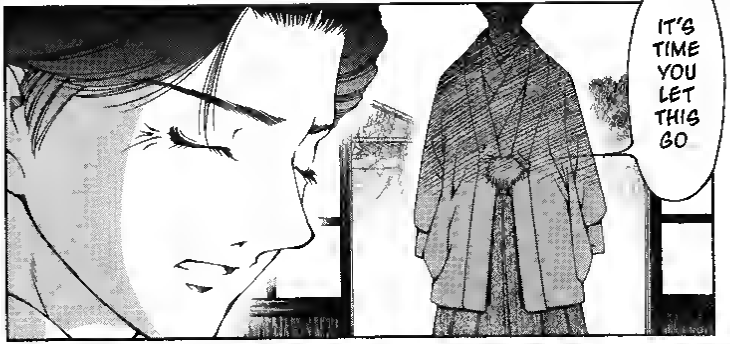
.....

!!!!!

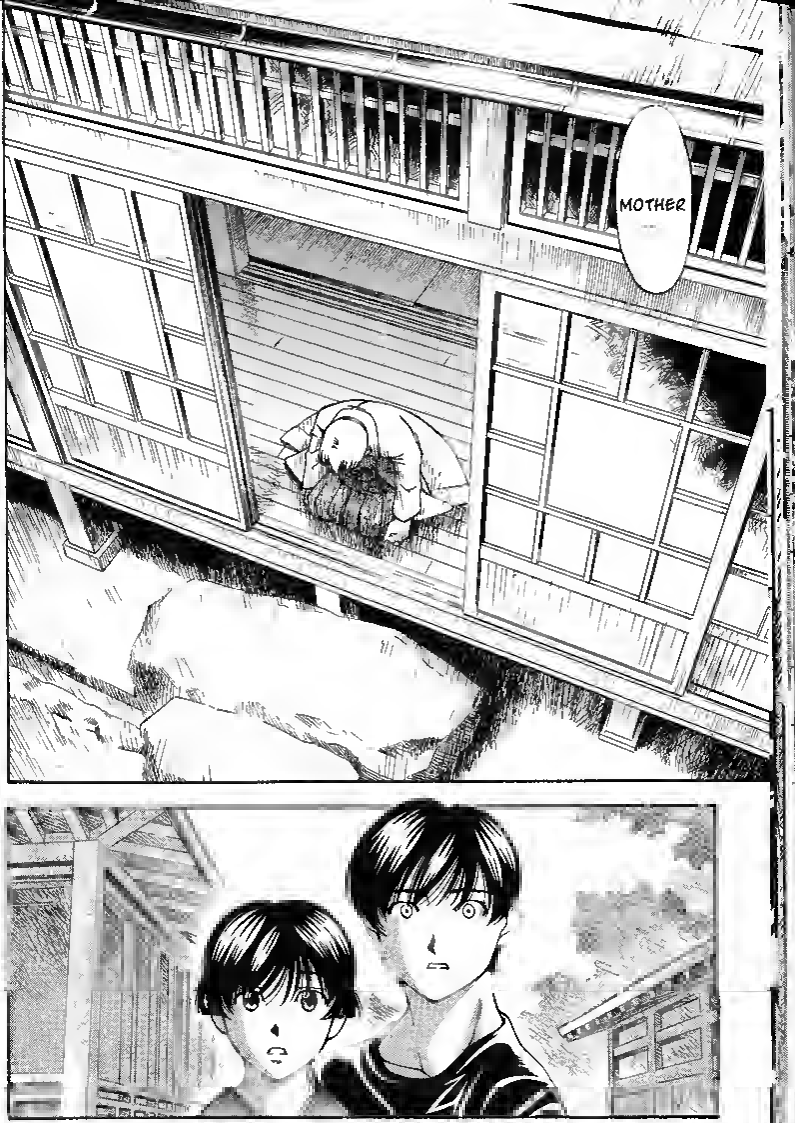

BUT...

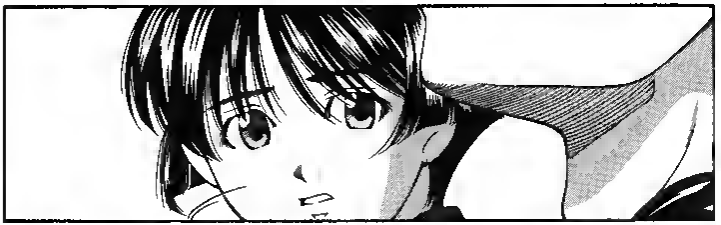

...WHY?
IT WASN'T SUP-POSED TO BE LIKE THIS.
SAG

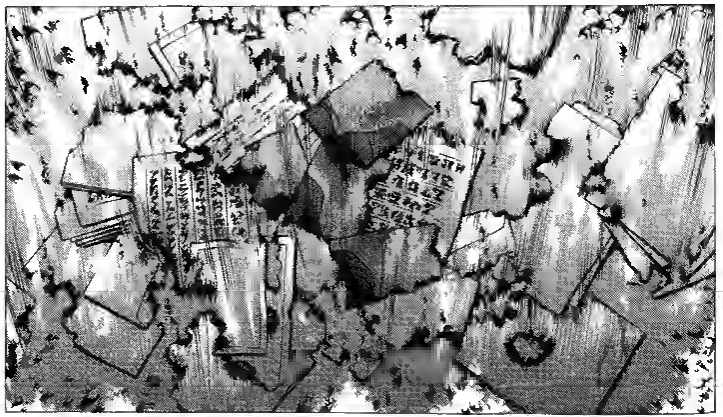
I'M SO SORRY.
I'M SORRY

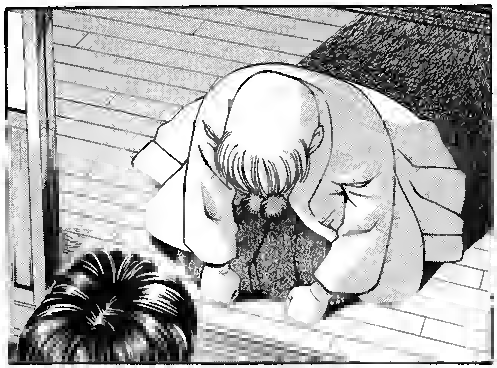

IT'S TIME YOU LET THIS GO

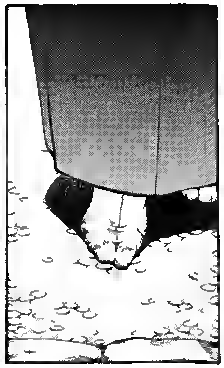
AOI HAS MADE HER CHOICE. IT ISN'T YOU. SHE CHOSE KAORU-SAN.

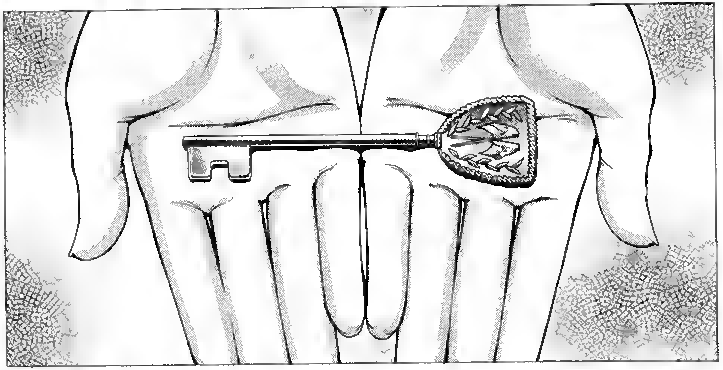

MOTHER

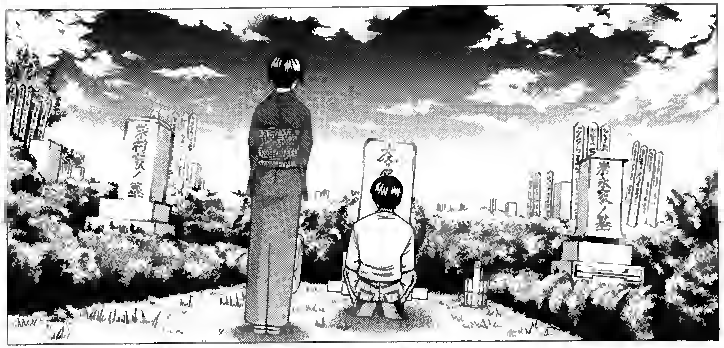












Sakaemura Family

Honjou Family

Iwanaga Family

AI YORI AOSHI

藍より青し

Chapter 135: Sokai—Cherished Hope

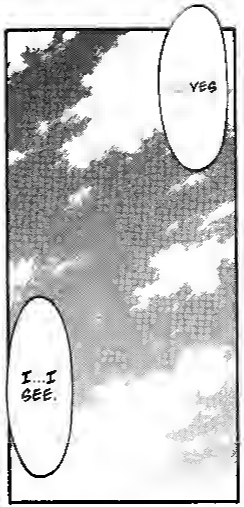
End of Chapter 134: Gakai—Fatal Flaw

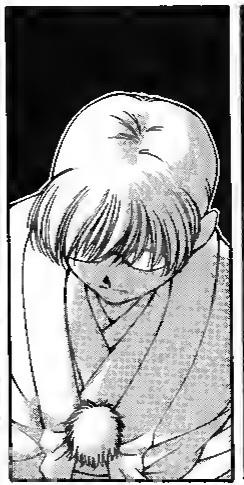
CRUNCH
...KAORU-SAMA.

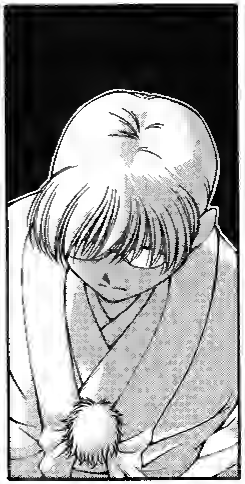
IS YOUR MOTHER STILL ALIVE?

AS HEAD OF THE HANABISHI ZAIBATSU, I, KAORU HANABISHI.

...HEREBY ENTRUST THE HANABISHI FAMILY ESTATE TO YOU.

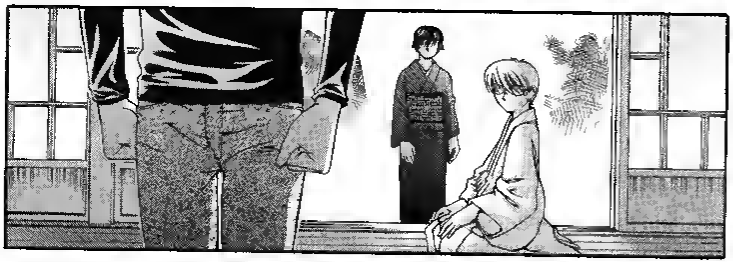

YES
I...I SEE.





AH! YES...

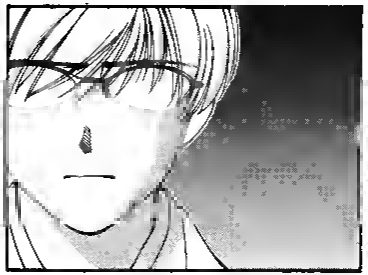
BESIDES, I HAVE



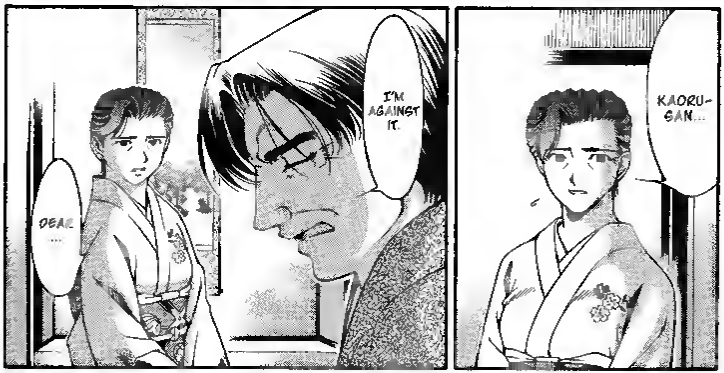
I WAS ABLE TO ENDURE OUR FAMILY'S CRUEL WAYS IF IT MEANT I WAS NEAR HER
LIKE YOU, EVERYTHING I DID WAS FOR MY MOTHER

BUT NOW MY MOTHER IS GONE.

WHAT?

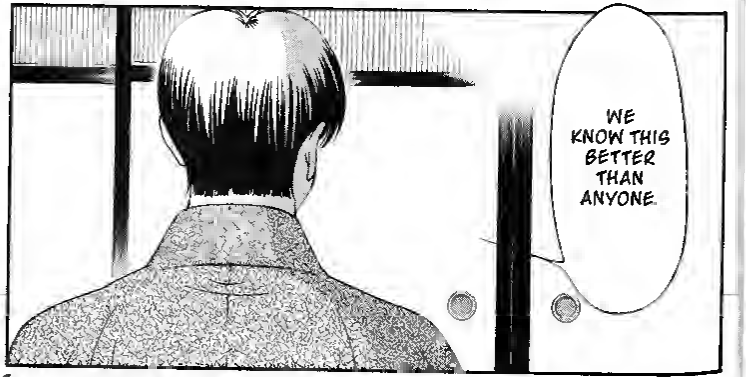


THOUGH I HAVE NOTHING OF WORTH TO OFFER HER, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.

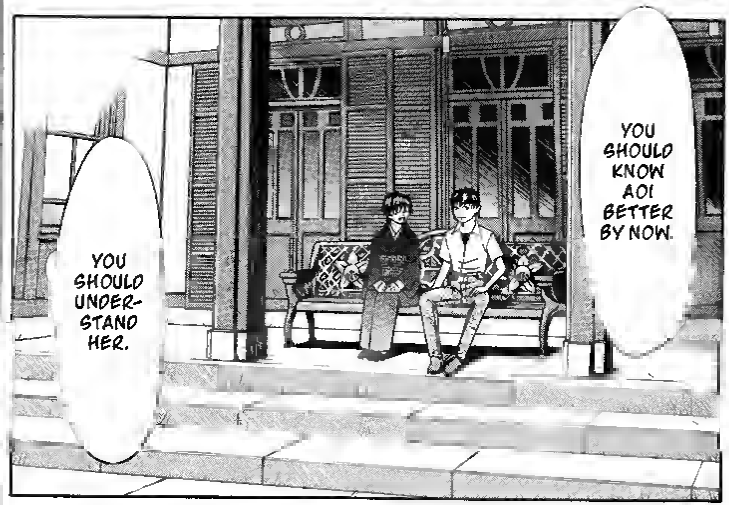

KAORU-SAN...
I'M AGAINST IT.
DEAR...

YOU CAN'T IGNORE HOW HARD AOI HAS WORKED FOR THE HANABISHI... AND FOR YOU.

HER EFFORTS HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS


WE KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE.

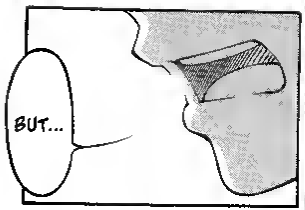
HOW CAN YOU BETRAY HER IN THIS WAY?


YOU SHOULD KNOW AOI BETTER BY NOW.
YOU SHOULD UNDER-STAND HER.

IF YOU DID, YOU'D RECONSIDER RETURNING TO THE HANABISHI
I TOLERATED YOUR LIVING TOGETHER IN ANTICIPA-TION OF YOU WISING UP

I...I AM TRULY SORRY.

YOU HAVE BETRAYED THE FEEL-INGS AND THE HOPES OF EVERYONE WHO CARES FOR AOI.

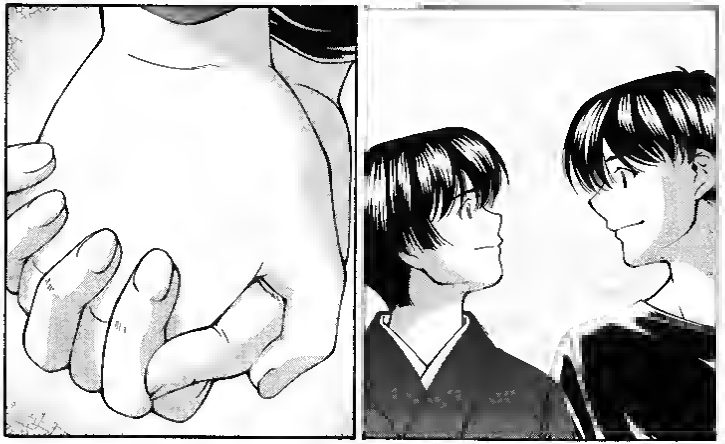

BUT...

BEING BY KAORU-SAMA'S SIDE, SHARING MY LIFE WITH HIM--FOR AOI, THAT IS THE GREATEST HAPPINESS.

EVEN SO, I WANT TO BE WITH KAORU-SAMA!
. EVEN SO, I--

BUT MY FEELINGS--MY HAPPINESS LIES WITH KAORU-SAMA.
I'M SORRY FOR BETRAYING YOUR FEELINGS, FATHER, MOTHER

ARE YOU COMPLETELY SURE ABOUT THIS?



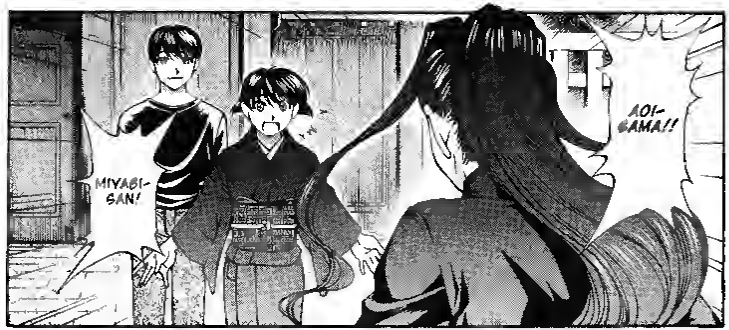
YES.

CRRREEEAK

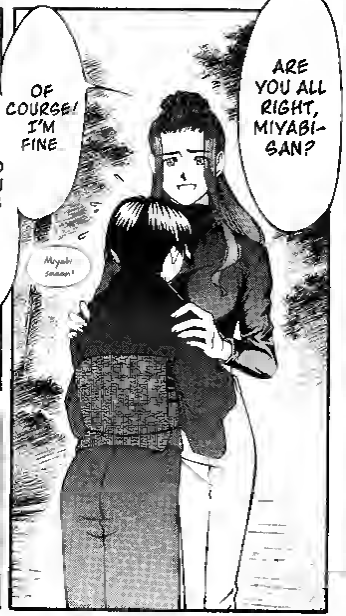
WOMP

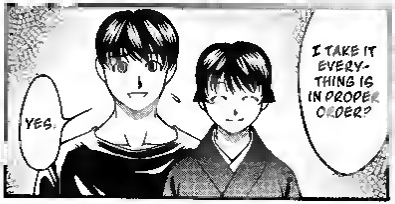
YEAH.

KAORU-SAMA?


MIYABI-SAN!
AOI-SAMA!!

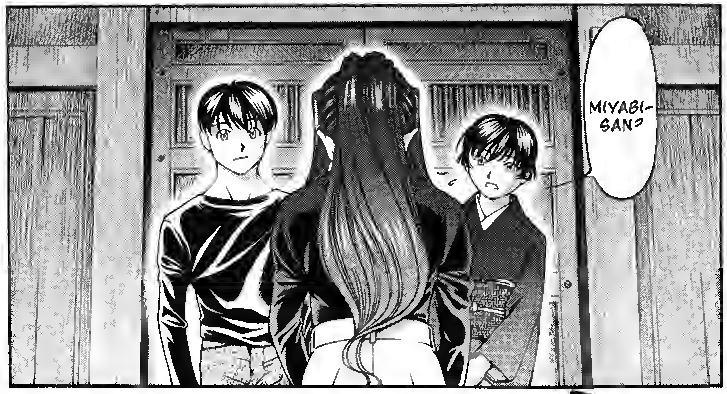
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU LOOKING WELL, KAORU-DONO.


OF COURSE! I'M FINE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIYABI-SAN?
Miyabi-sama!


I TAKE IT EVERY-THING IS IN PROPER ORDER?
YES.

THAT'S GOOD...
...I'M GLAD.
SIGH

SOB
SOB
SOB
I HAD FAITH IN YOU TWO. I KNEW THAT TOGETHER, YOU'D MAKE EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT.


MIYABI-SAN?

WH-WHA--?!
TUG

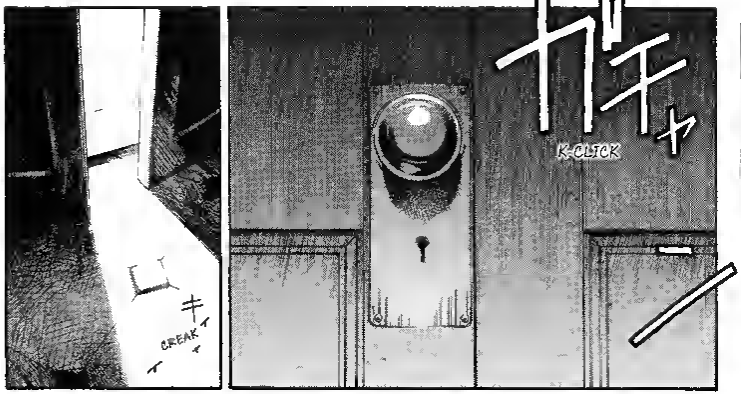
GRAB
YAA?

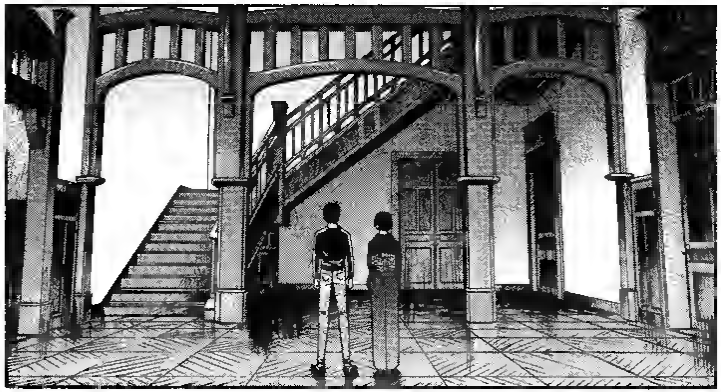
藍より青し

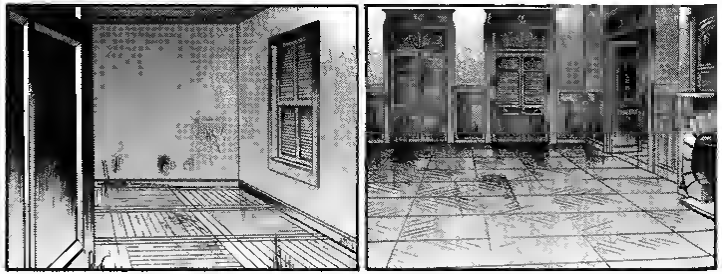
AI YORI AOSHI

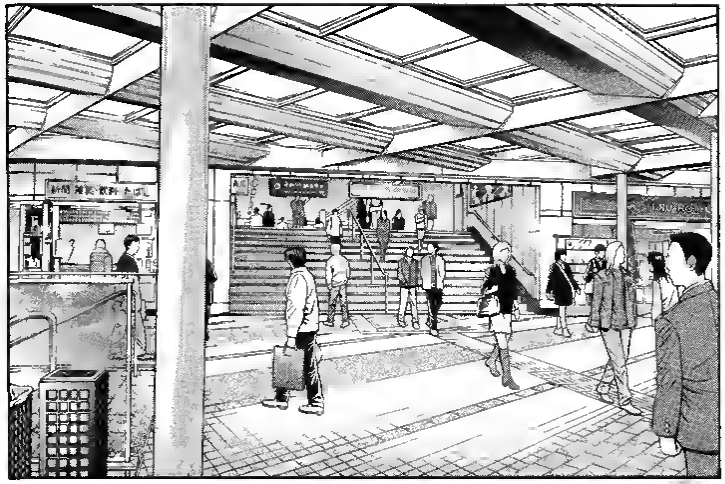
Chapter 136: Tsugai—Pair

End of Chapter 135: Sokai—Cherished Hope


カチャ
K-CLICK
CREAK



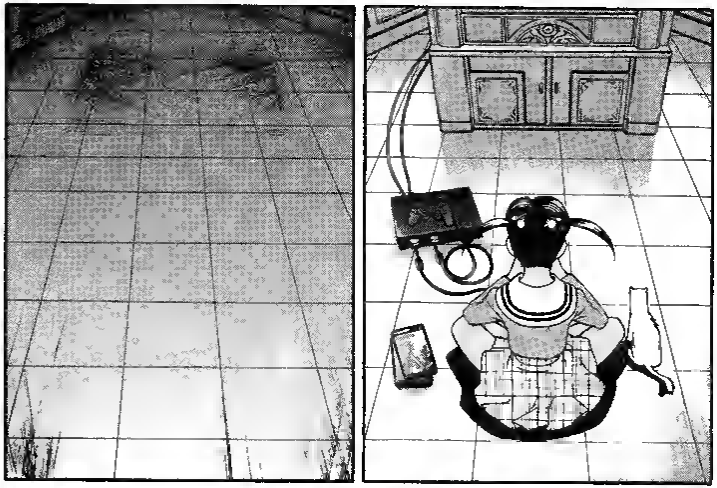




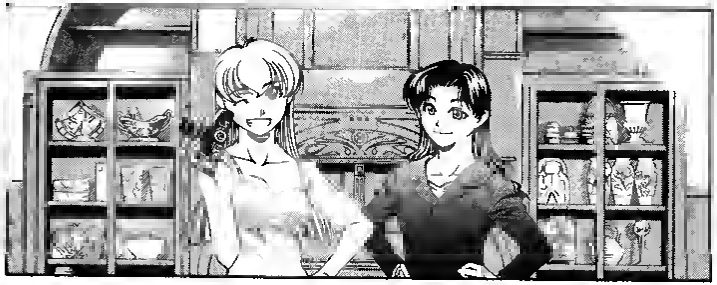
I WISH MIYABI-SAN HAD COME WITH US.
ME, TOO.

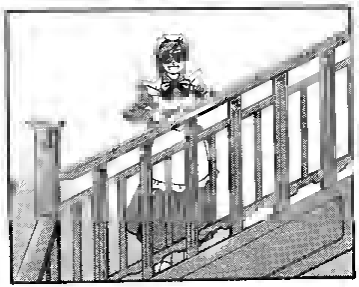
I GUESS MOTHER HAD SOME-THING IMPOR-TANT FOR HER TO DO
APPAR-ENTLY SO.

I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I'M HOME AGAIN.

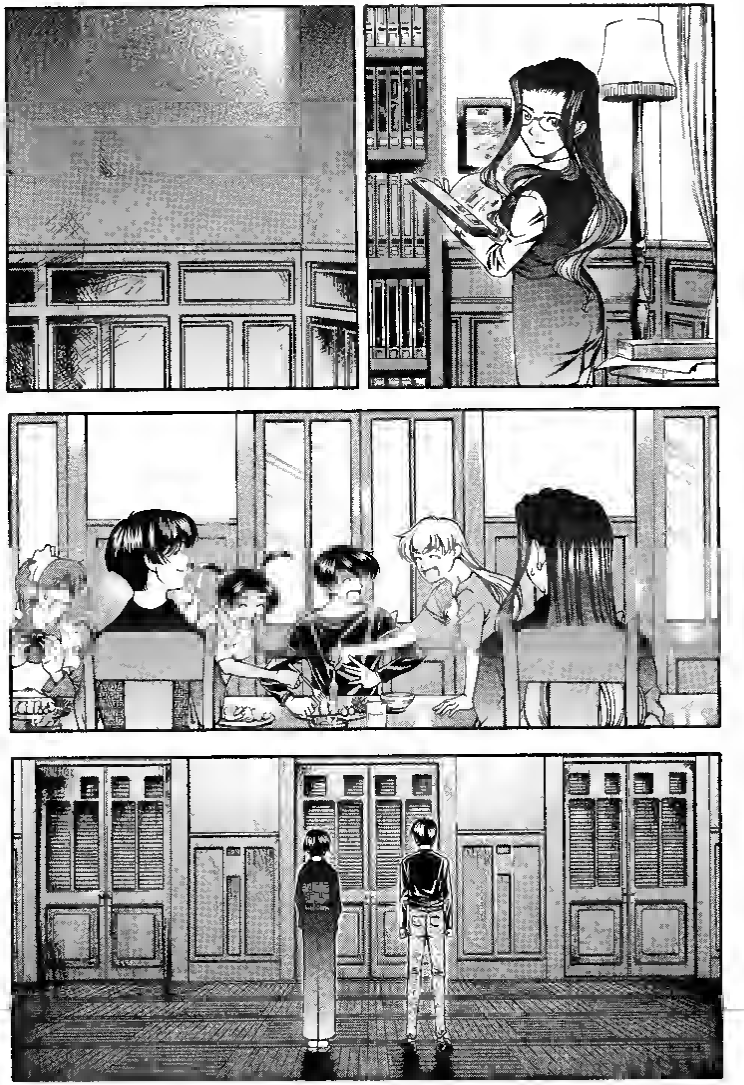


IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID, KAORU-SAMA. EVERYTHING'S GONE
YEAH...





I NEVER REALIZED THIS HOUSE WAS SO BIG
THE LIFE WE HAD HERE...
...IS REALLY OVER.
AOI-CHAN.



THE NEXT STEP... FOR US?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW, AOI-CHAN? WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?
EH ?!

FROM HERE ON...

WELL, AOI-CHAN?!

I CAN'T REMEMBER AT ALL!

...BUT ALL THAT MATTERS NOW IS THAT AOI CAN ALWAYS...
...ALWAYS BE WITH KAORU-SAMA FOREVER.

FOR SO LONG I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT IT AND MAKING PLANS.

I CAN SEE YOU EVERY DAY, KAORU-SAMA.
I CAN TALK WITH YOU EVERY DAY.
I CAN TOUCH YOU EVERY DAY.
THAT'S ALL AOI NEEDS.

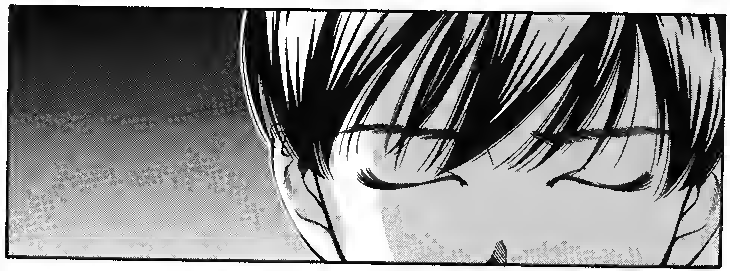
OH, THEY EVEN CLEARED OUT MY ROOM
HUH?
AH !!

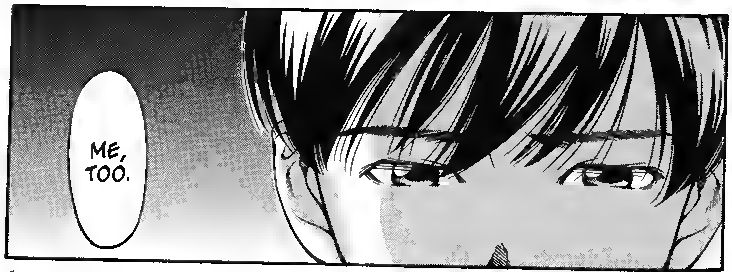
LUCKY FOR US
SQUEEZE
THEY MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO PACK THAT WITH EVERYTHING ELSE

...YOU AND I MAY HAVE NEVER FOUND EACH OTHER AGAIN, AOI-CHAN
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT
COME TO THINK OF IT, IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS PICTURE
IT WAS THESE HAPPY MEMORIES THAT MADE ME REALIZE...

...THAT THERE WAS NO LIFE FOR AOI WITHOUT KAORU-SAMA IN IT.

IF I EVER CAN'T BE WITH YOU, KAORU-SAMA, I'D RATHER NOT TAKE ANOTHER BREATH.




ME, TOO.

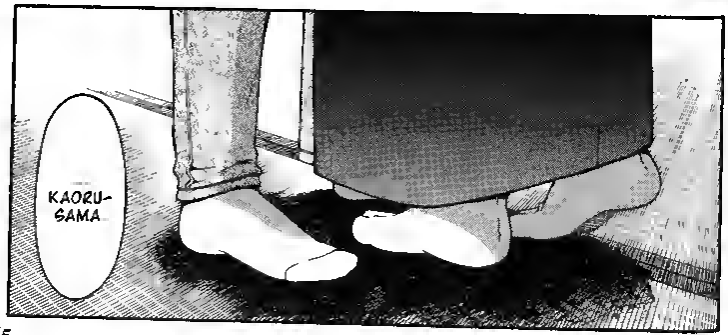
Uh
SOB
KAORU-SAMA!!
GRAB

BUT NOW WE WON'T EVER HAVE TO WORRY. AT LONG LAST, YOU AND I ARE TOGETHER, AOI-CHAN.

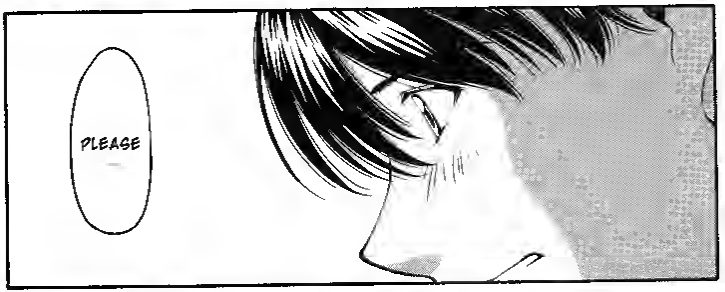
FINALLY, YOU AND I ARE ONE.
YES.

KAORU-SAMA FINALLY BELONGS TO AOI ALONE.

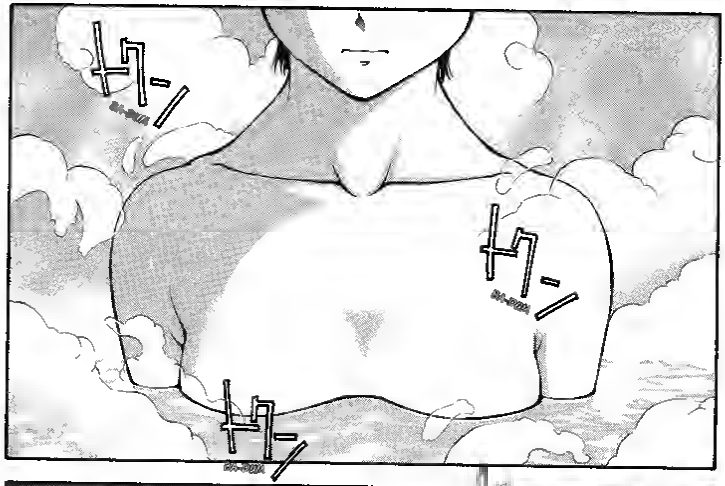
OH...


KAORU-SAMA

Chapter 137: Kinuzure—Rustling of Clothes



End of Chapter 136: Tsugai—Pair


DA-DUM
DA-DUM
DA-DUM

MY HEART JUST KEEPS POUNDING SO HARD, EVEN THOUGH I'M SO HAPPY.
SQUEEZE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? MY WHOLE BODY IS THROBBING.

AOI WILL BE A WOMAN FOR KAORU-SAMA ALONE.
PLOP
KAORU-SA...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA
DUM

PLEASE MAKE ME-- MAKE AOI-- YOURS.
AOI-CHAN...
GRIP
AOI...
BA-DUM

...IS OVER-WHELM-ING
BA-DUM
EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE, THE POUND-ING
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY WHOLE BODY POUND UNCONTROL-LABLY
BA DUM
BA-DUM
BLUSH
AH...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
EH? UH, YEAH... SURE.
UM.. KAORU-SAMA, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I TAKE A QUICK BATH?

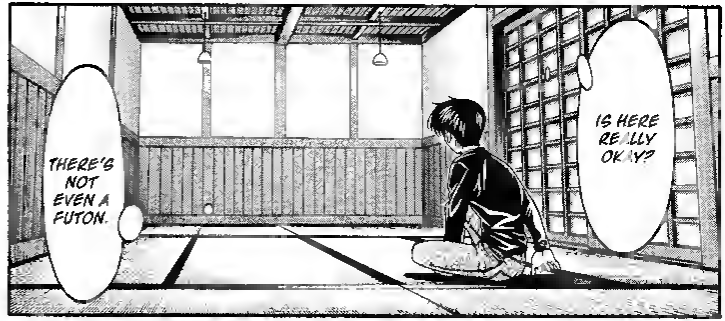
I-IS IT OKAY IF I TURN OFF THE LIGHTS?
Y-YEAH.
D-DON'T TELL ME, IS AOI-CHAN STILL NAKED?

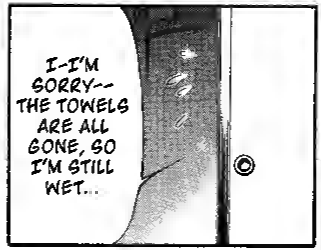
S-SORRY, IT'S NOTHING.
D-DUMMY. OF COURSE SHE WOULDN'T STILL BE NAKED...

HUH?

EH?!

WHOA.. MY HEART'S BEATING CRAZY FAST..
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM


THERE'S NOT EVEN A FUTON.
IS HERE RE..LLY OK..Y?


I-I'M SORRY-- THE TOWELS ARE ALL GONE, SO I'M STILL WET..

KAORU-SAMA?
TWITCH

BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
MM...

UH, UM...I-I DON'T HAVE EXPERIENCE.
PLEASE, TREAT ME KINDLY
I'M INEXPER-IENCED, TOO
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

H-HUH?
UMMM
H-HOW DO YOU TAKE OFF TRADITIONAL CLOTHING...?
...KAORU-SAMA...
BA DUM
MMM
AHHH...

I THINK I TAKE THIS... NO, WAS IT HERE?
Y-YES. IT'S F-FINE...
IS EVERY-THING OKAY?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA DUM
BA DUM
WH-WHY IS IT SO EMBARRASSING TO TAKE HER CLOTHES OFF?
AH...
Mm
AOI-CHAN'S HELPING ME SO IT'S EASIER TO TAKE IT OFF.
G-GOT IT...
KAORU-SAMA, PLEASE PULL THIS.
I'M SORRY. I'M NOT USED TO THIS KIND OF THING.

BA-DUM

DON'T BE. IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT YOU'RE NOT.

POUND
POUND
POUND

POUND
POUND
POUND
RUSTLE

KAORU-SAMA...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
KAORU-SAMA!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

KAORU-SAMA.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
KAORU-SAMA!!
BA-DUM

藍より青し

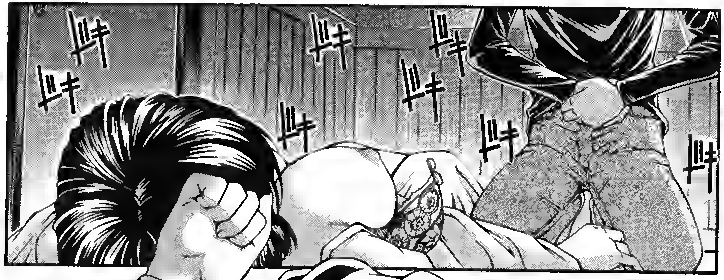
AI-YORI AOSHI

Chapter 138: Kizuna—Bond

End of Chapter 137: Kinuzure—Rustle of Clothing

MY KAORU-SAMA....
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

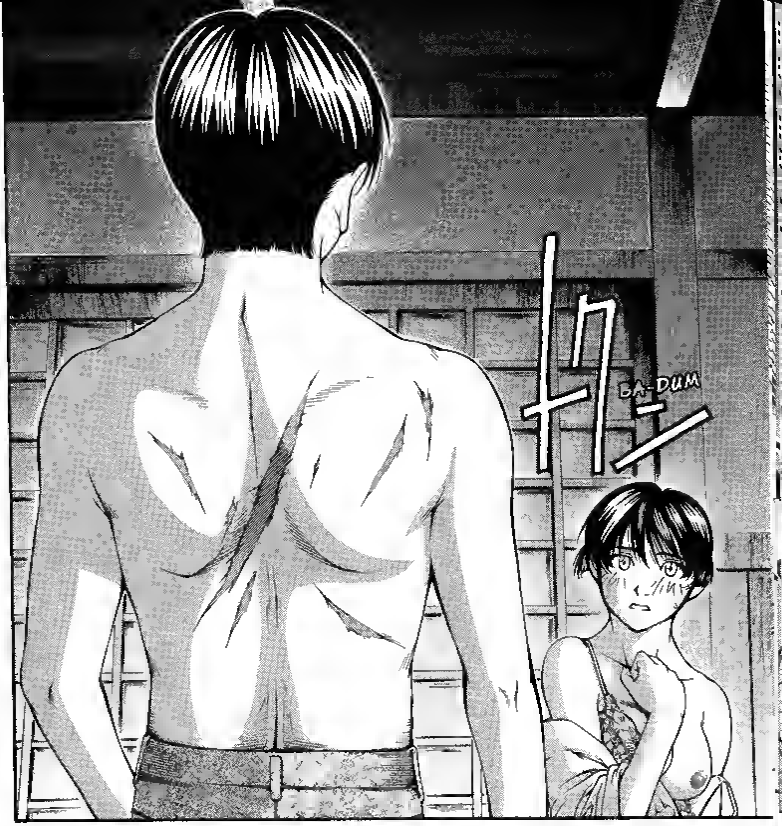
M-MAY I.. TOUCH THEM?
Y-YES.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

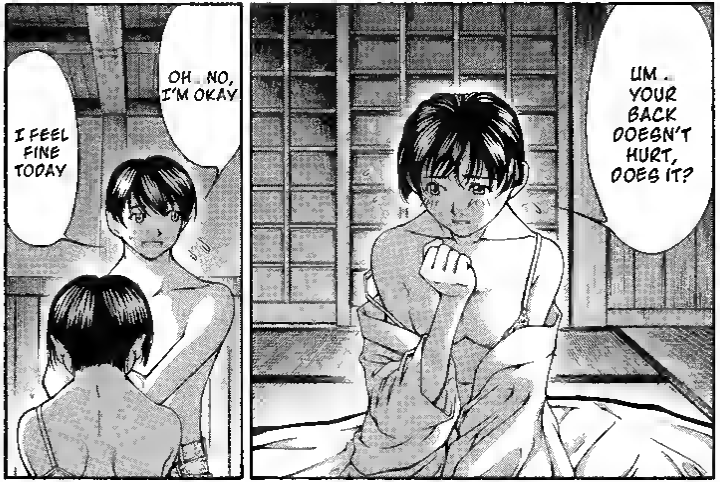


SHFF

BA-DUM
AH...
PA-DUM
ふわ
PUSSS
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

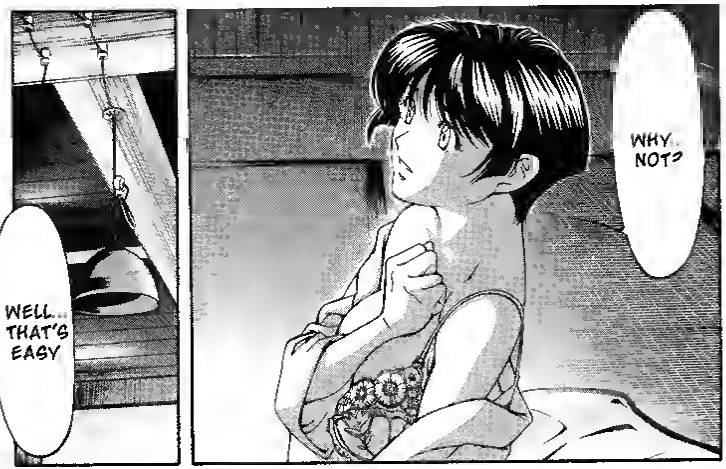
AH...
HAA...


KA-DUM
KAORU-SAMA...


I FEEL FINE TODAY
OH... NO, I'M OKAY
UM... YOUR BACK DOESN'T HURT, DOES IT?

THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, I WONDER WHY IT HURT THAT OTHER TIME.

I KNOW VERY WELL WHY IT DOESN'T HURT TONIGHT


WELL... THAT'S EASY
WHY NOT?

I'D CREDIT IT TO... DETERMI-NATION

DETERMI-NATION?

I WILL ALWAYS CARE FOR YOU, SUPPORT YOU, AND MAKE YOU HAPPY.
NO MATTER WHAT!

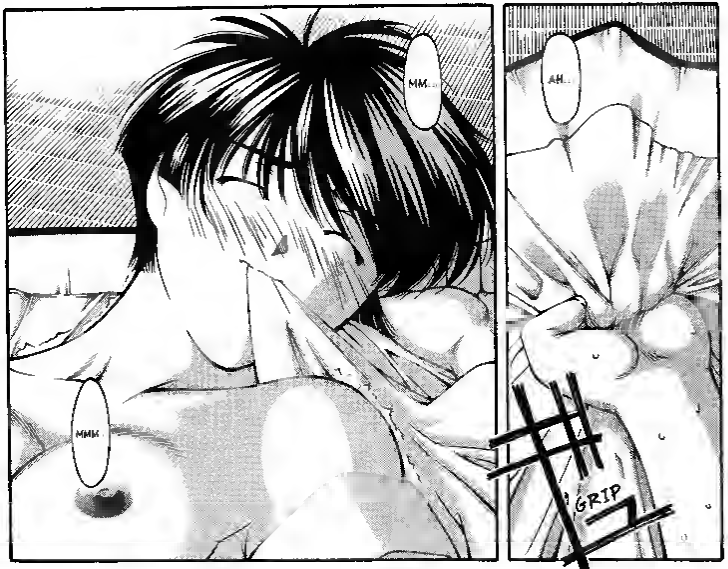
OH, KAORU-SAMA...

TONIGHT, THOUGH, I HAVE NO DOUBTS

YOU AND I WILL NEVER BE SEPARATED, AOI-CHAN.

THE MORE I WANTED TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH YOU, TO BE WITH YOU, THE MORE ANXIOUS I BECAME.

AOI-CHAN...
BA-DUM
Y-YES.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
AH...
BA-DUM
AH!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
KAORU-SAMA...


MM...
MMM
AH...
GRIP

KAORU-SAMA!
KAORU-SAMA!!
KAORU-SAMA!!!

AH...
AAAH
AH
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
NOW AOI...
KAORU-SAMA!

NOW AOI BELONGS TO KAORU-SAMA ALONE, RIGHT?
YES...
Huff
Huff

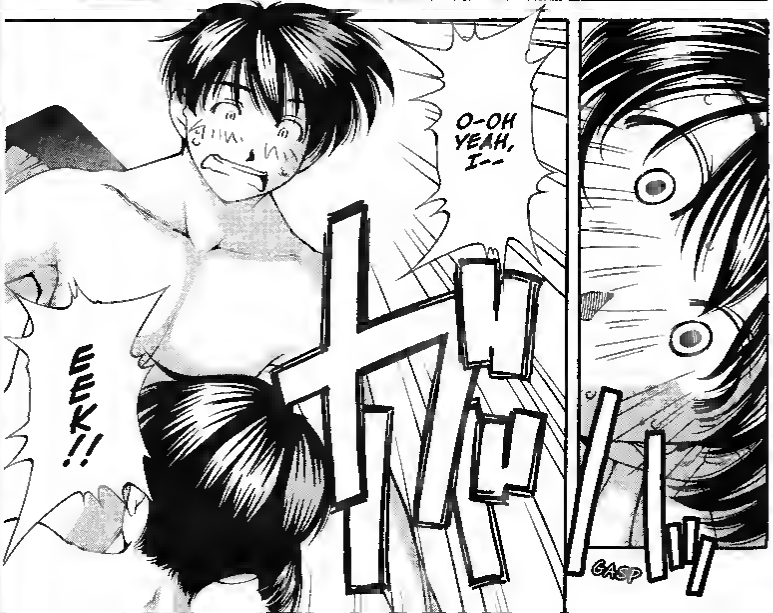
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

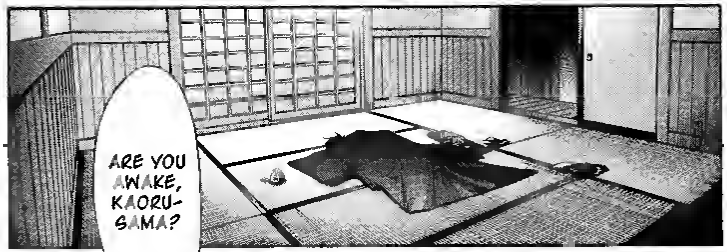
Chapter 139
Shutsuran—Bluer

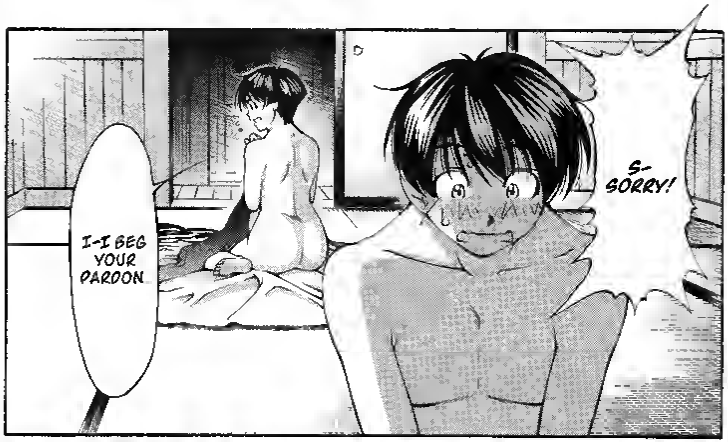
End of Chapter 138: Kizuna—Bond

YES, AOI-CHAN.


O-OH YEAH, I--
EEK!!
GASP

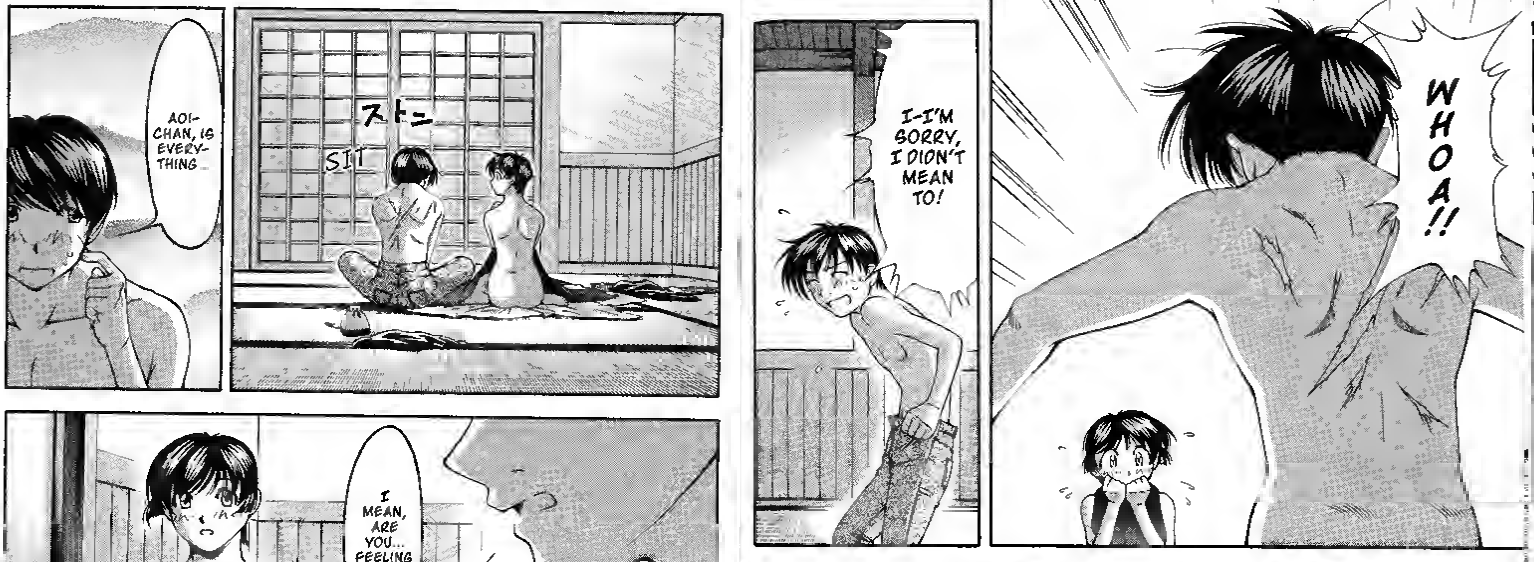
NNNN...


ARE YOU AWAKE, KAORU-SAMA?

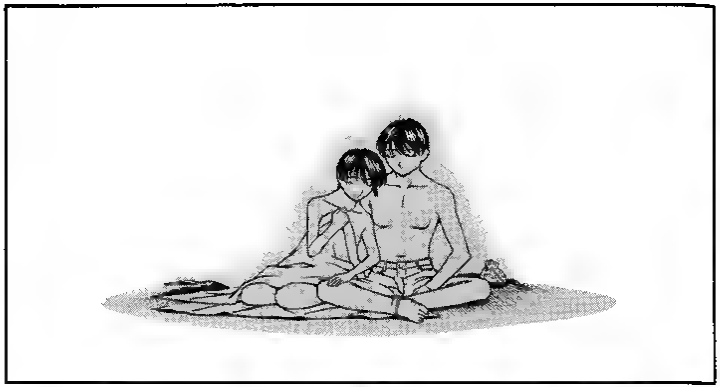

I-I BEG YOUR PARDON
S-SORRY!

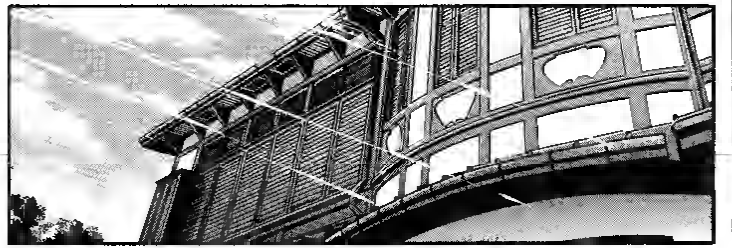
BA-DUM
STARE
EH?!
K-KAORU-SAMA DO YOU--

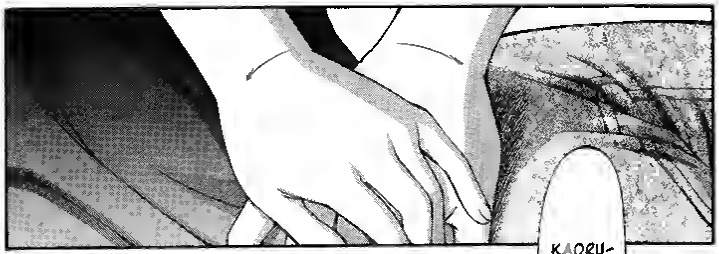
BA-DUM
UH...


WHOA!!
I-I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
Hee hee
Ha ha

AOI-CHAN, IS EVERY-THING...
ストン
SIT
I MEAN, ARE YOU... FEELING OKAY?!
WHISPER
I'M STILL A LITTLE... YOU KNOW...
WHISPER
WHISPER
..Y-YES.






KAORU-SAMA... I...

...DID I DO IT RIGHT?

OF COURSE

EH HEH. KAORU-SAMA, WHEN YOU STARE AT ME LIKE THAT... WELL...
IT'S A LITTLE EMBAR-RASSING

I SEE

S-SORRY. I JUST COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU

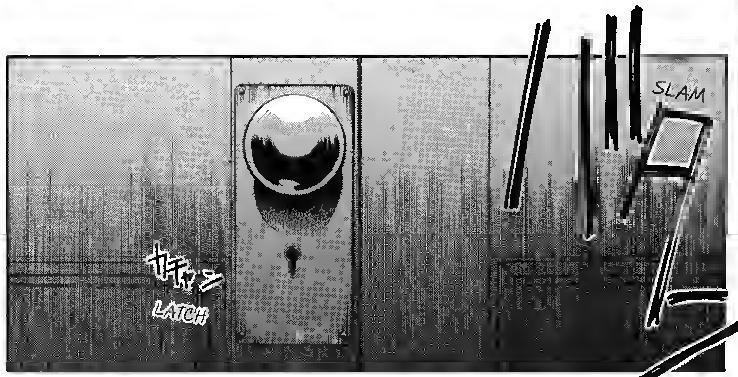
THIS KIMONO IS ACTUALLY A HAND-ME-DOWN FROM MOTHER, YOU KNOW.

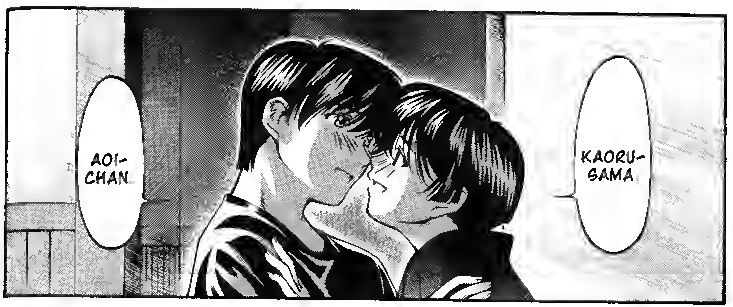
...AND THE INDIGO BECOMES MORE BLUE AND VIVID.

INDIGO-DYED KIMONOS ARE VERY DARK AT FIRST.

BUT IF YOU KEEP WEARING IT, AS TIME PASSES, THE COLOR BLENDS...

AOI WANTS TO CULTIVATE OUR LOVE OVER TIME, TOO.
JUST LIKE THIS KIMONO, IT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW MORE INTENSE— FROM NOW AND ON INTO FOREVER.

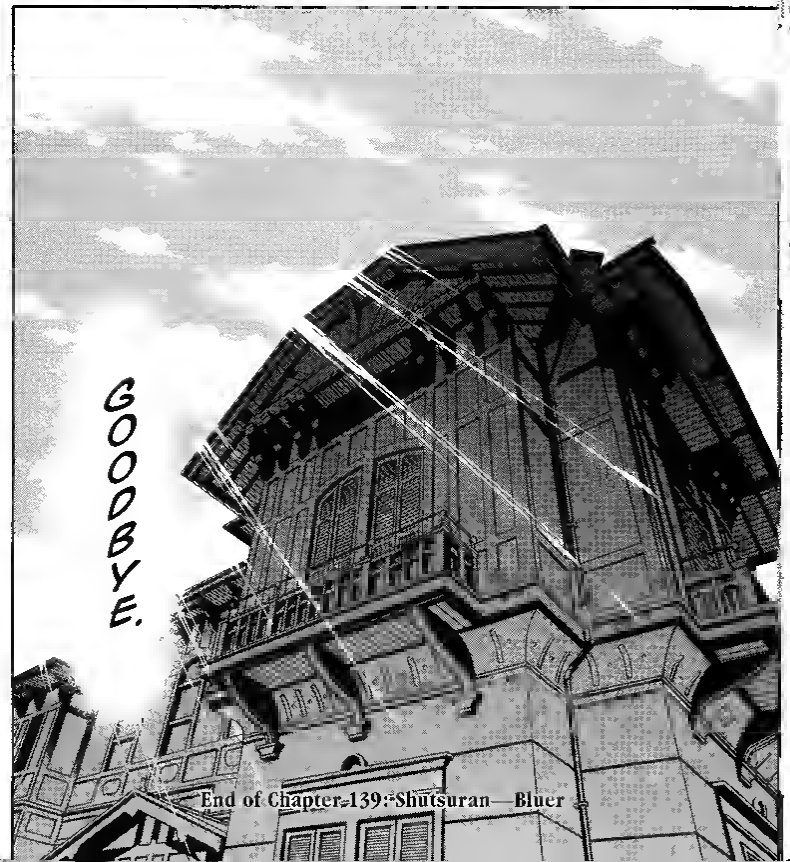

SLAM
LATCH


AOI-CHAN
KAORU-SAMA

I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO THIS HOUSE.
AND FAREWELL TO THE LIVES WE LIVED UNTIL NOW.
YEAH, I GUESS SO.

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

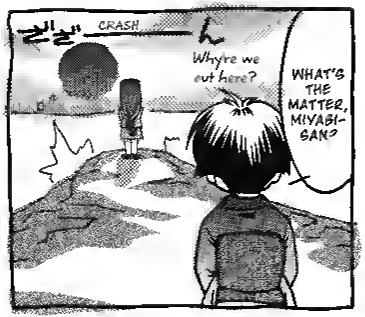


End of Chapter 139: Shutsuran—Bluer

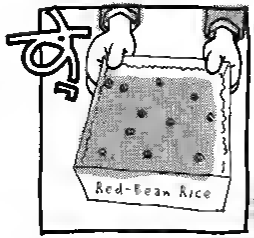
藍より青し

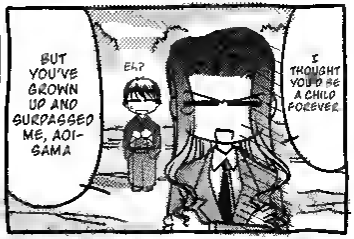
AI YORI AOSHI

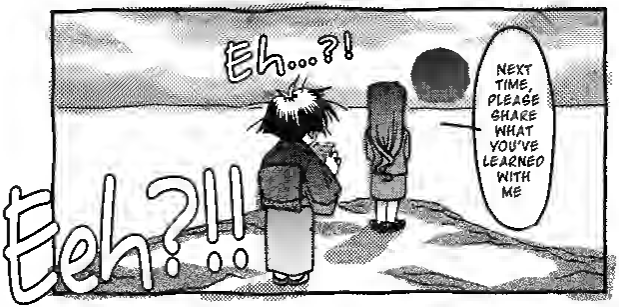
Chapter 140: Hanamuke—Farewell Gift

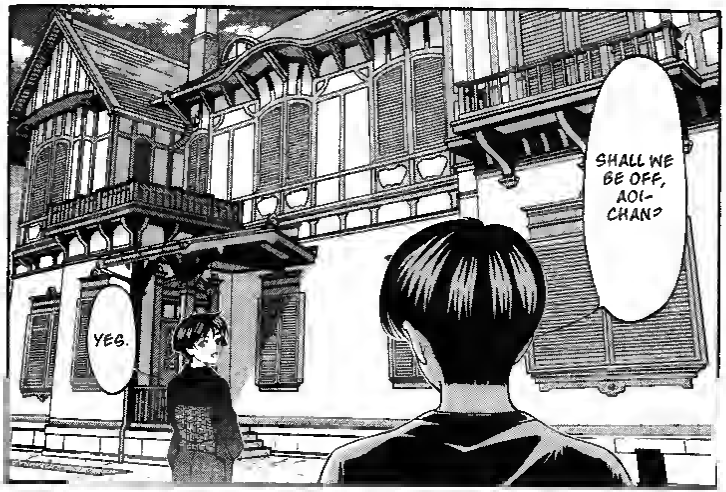


Ai-Ao Theatre, Final Part: Surpassing Miyabi...



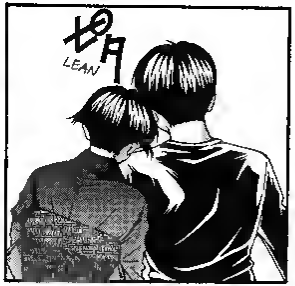





SHALL WE BE OFF, AOI-CHAN?
YES.

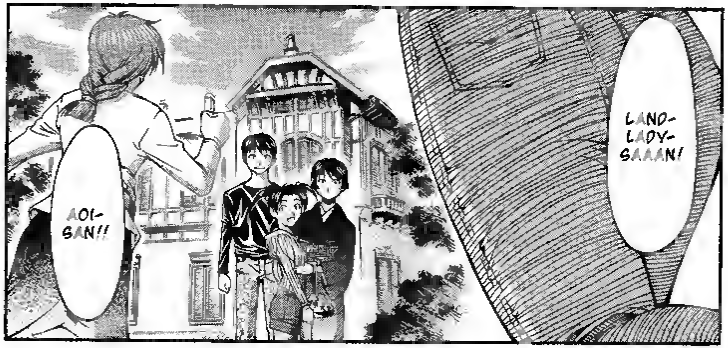
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, KAORU-SAMA, AOI WILL FOLLOW.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO FROM HERE?


LEAN

TWITCH
AOI-NEE-CHAN!!

WELCOME HOME!!

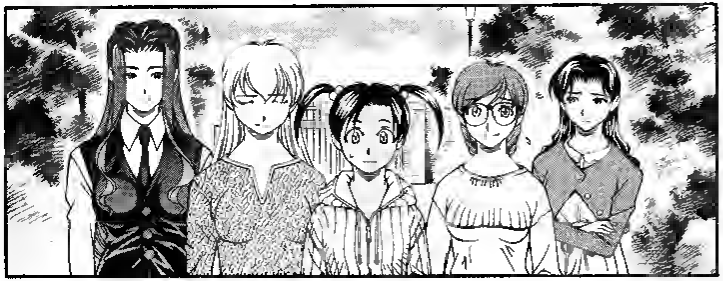

AOI-SAN!!
LAND-LADY-SAAAN!

GOOD T'SEE YA, LANDLADY-SAN!!
WELCOME HOME
WELCOME BACK, AOI-SAMA.

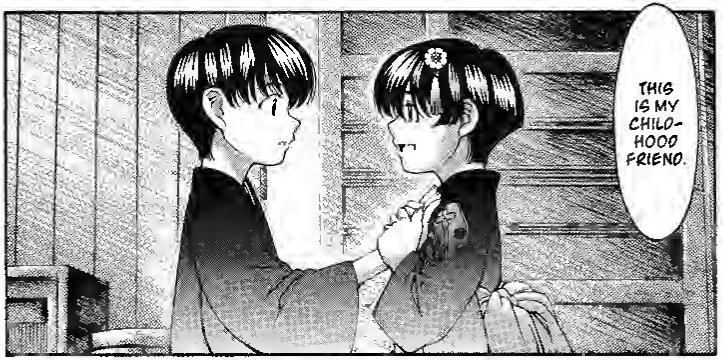
EVERY-ONE...

...I AM HOME

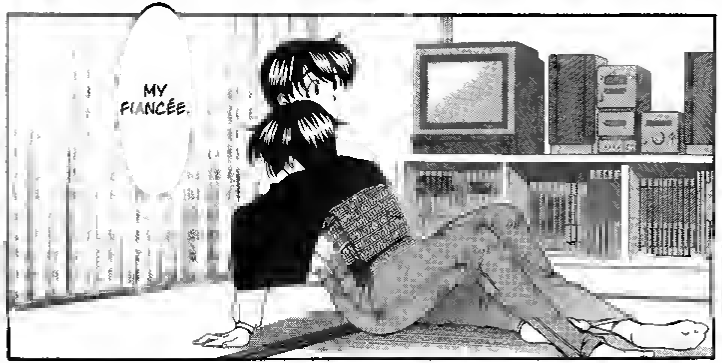
LET ME RE-INTRODUCE YOU



SHE HAS LOVED ME WITH ALL HER HEART...
...FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.


THIS IS MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.

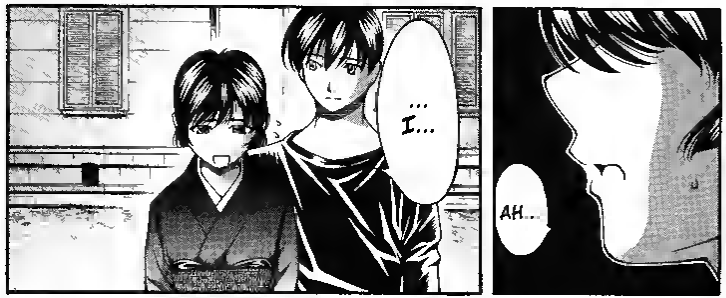
MY BE-TROTHED

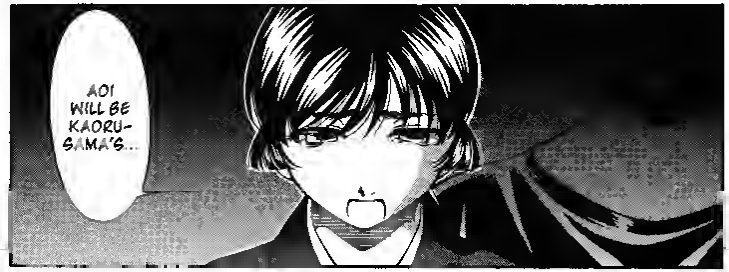

MY FIANCÉE.

COME ON, SAY HELLO.
KAORU-SAMA?!
I AM.. KAORU-SAMA'S--
UH, UM...
BA-DUM
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU SAID IT OUT LOUD?!
YOU'RE GONNA MARRY KAORU, AREN'T YOU, LANDLADY-SAN?

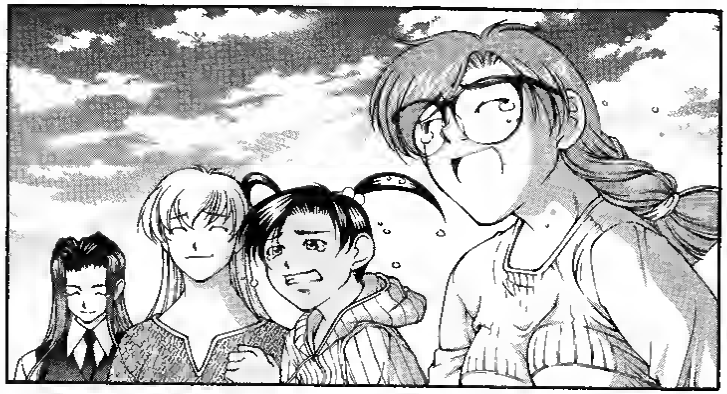
TO ME, SHE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

AOI WILL BE KAORU-SAMA'S WIFE.
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB

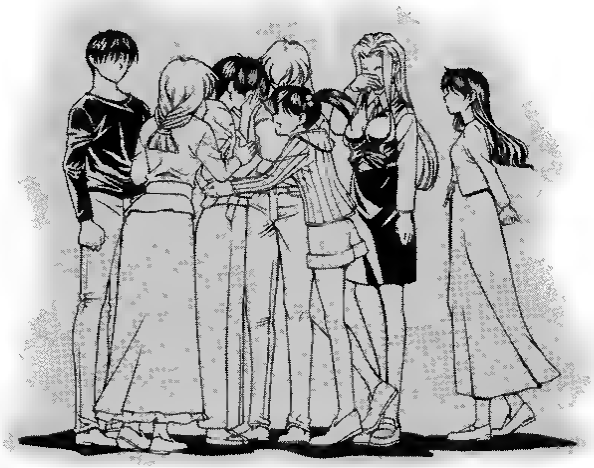

...I...
AH...


AOI WILL BE KAORU-SAMA'S...

GULP

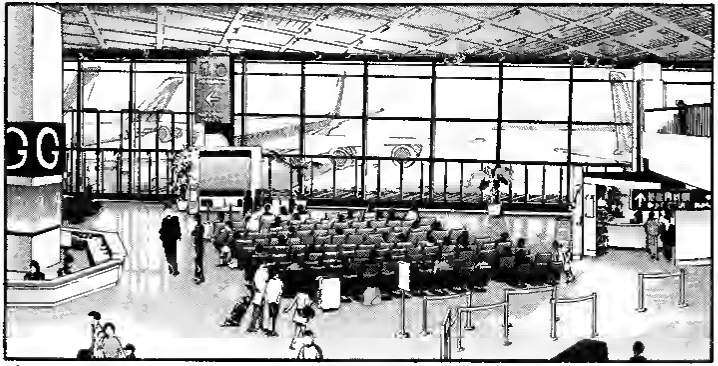


CONGRATULATIONS!!!

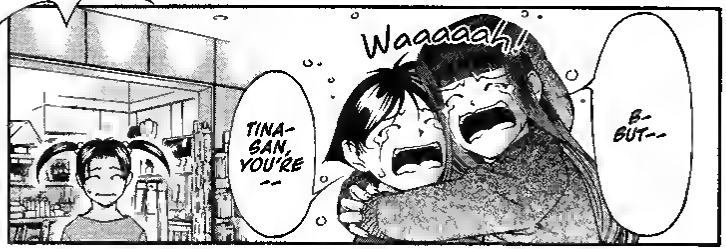


NATSUKI-CHAN, CHIZURU-CHAN-- THIS IS FOR HER. LET'S SEND HER OFF WITH SMILES, NOT TEARS
DRIP

SURE
O-OKAY

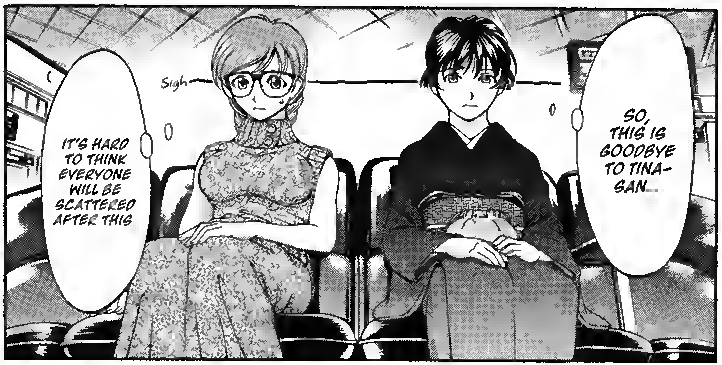

GC

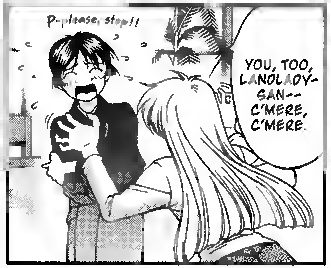
ARRGH!!
WAAAH! TINA-SAAAN!
OHH, STOP CRYING!!

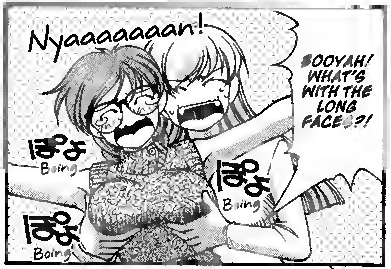

Waaaaah!
TINA-SAN, YOU'RE --
B-BUT--

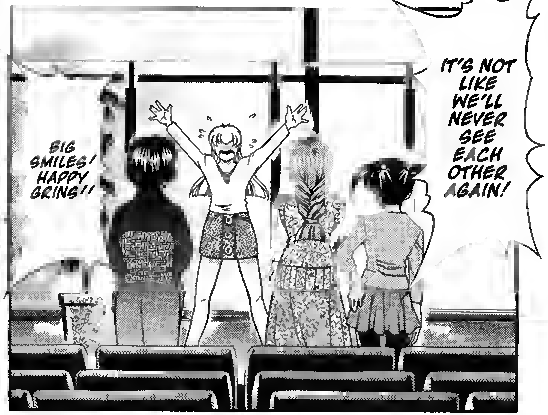
AND I THOUGHT THAT TINA-ONEECHAN WOULD HATE A WEEPY GOODBYE MORE THAN ANYTHING
MAYBE BECAUSE I CRIED ALL LAST NIGHT

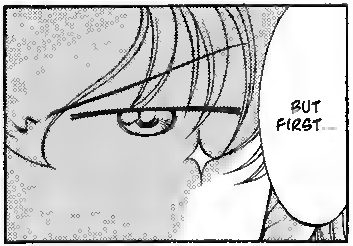
DUNNO, BUT CHIKA'S FINE
HOW ARE YOU SO CALM, CHIKA-CHAN?


Sigh
IT'S HARD TO THINK EVERYONE WILL BE SCATTERED AFTER THIS
SO, THIS IS GOODBYE TO TINA-SAN...

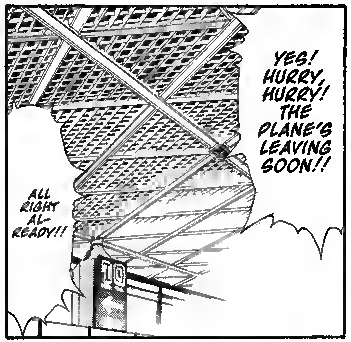

P-please, stop!!
YOU, TOO, LANDLADY-SAN--- C'MERE, C'MERE.

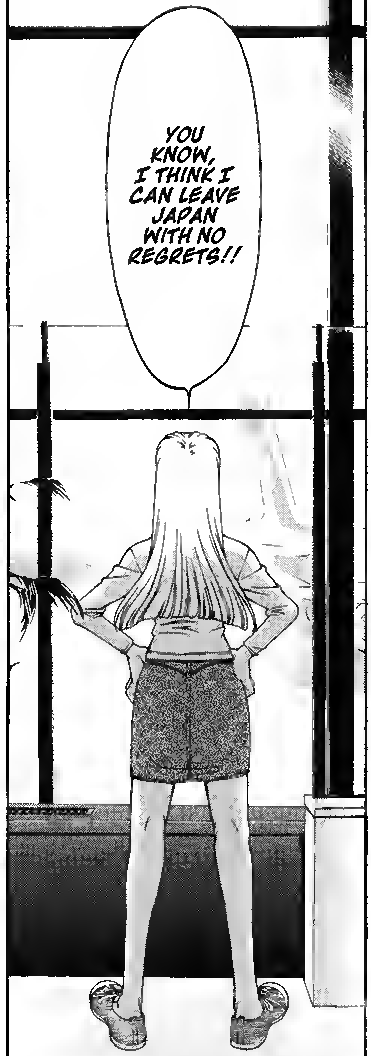

Nyaaaaaaan!
OOOYAH! WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACE?!
Boing
Boing
Boing

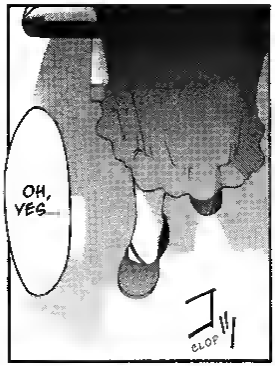

BIG SMILES! HAPPY GRING!!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!

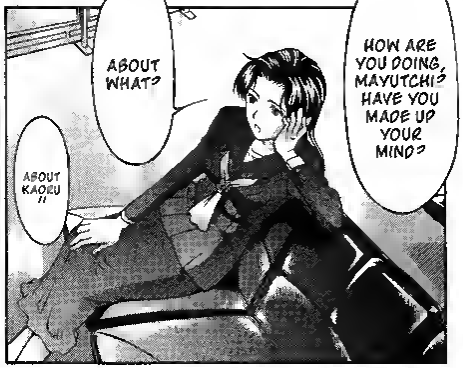

BUT FIRST...

HUH? NOW?!
Pleeeeease!
KAORU, GO TO THE GIFT SHOP AND BUY LOTS OF JAPANESE SOUVENIRS!

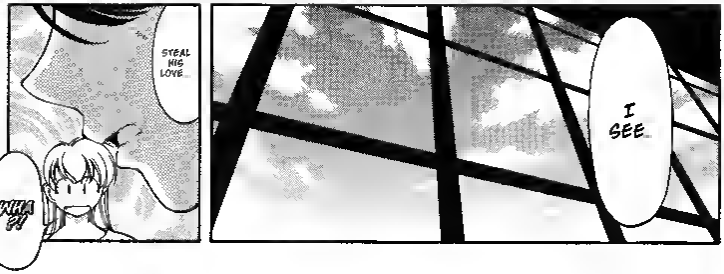

YES! HURRY, HURRY! THE PLANE'S LEAVING SOON!!
ALL RIGHT AL-READY!!!

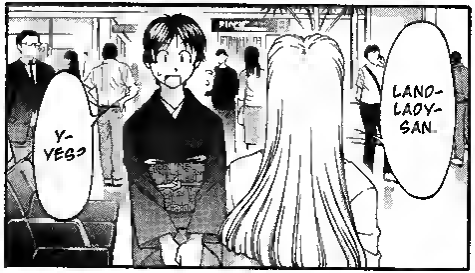

YOU KNOW, I THINK I CAN LEAVE JAPAN WITH NO REGRETS!!


OH, YES...
FLOP

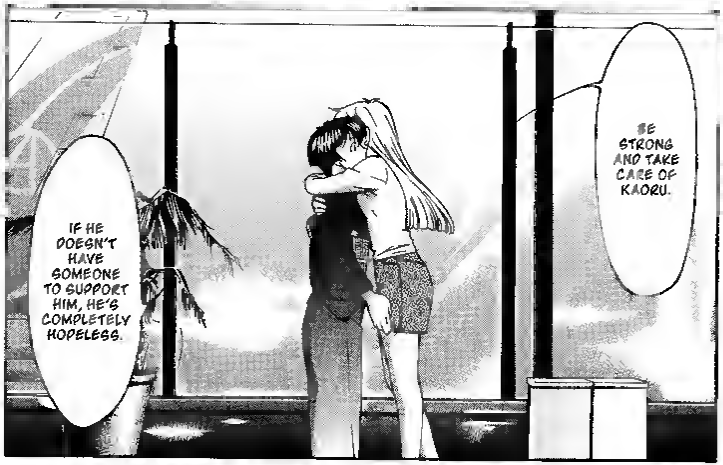

HOW ARE YOU DOING, MAYUTCHI? HAVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND?
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT KAORU!!

I'M GOING TO GIVE UP ON HANABISHI-SAMA AND GET OVER MY LONGING FOR HIM.
IT SEEMS MAYU CAN'T STAY A CHILD FOREVER, EITHER.

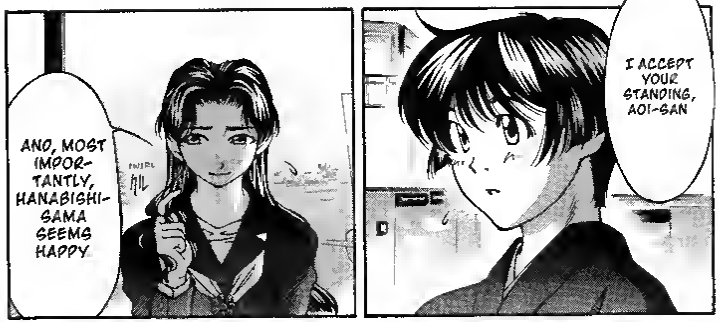

I SEE...
STEAL HIS LOVE...
WITH MY


Y-YES?
LAND-LADY-SAN.

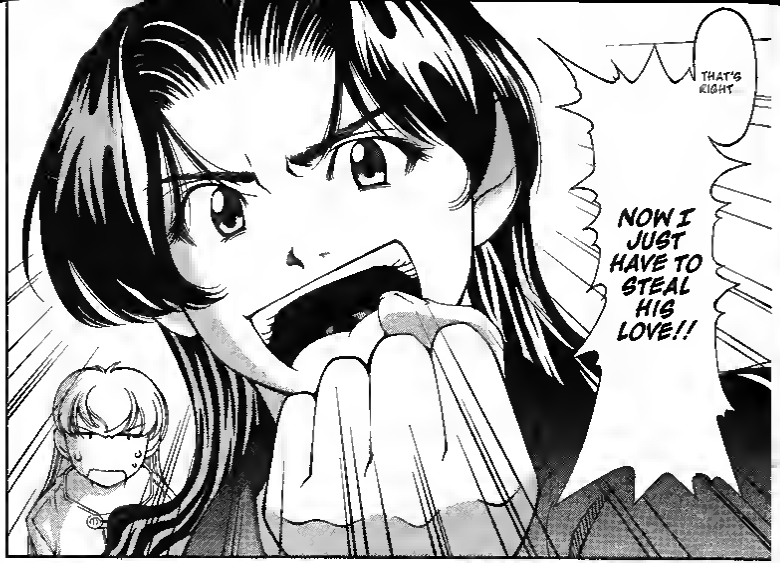
THERE, NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN RID OF KAORU.


IF HE DOESN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO SUPPORT HIM, HE'S COMPLETELY HOPELESS.
BE STRONG AND TAKE CARE OF KAORU.

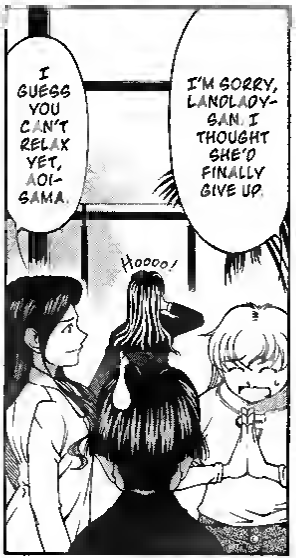
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME
.....YES.


I ACCEPT YOUR STANDING, AOI-SAN
ANO, MOST IMPOR-TANTLY, HANABISHI-SAMA SEEMS HAPPY.

BUT MAYU HAS SAID..


THAT'S RIGHT
NOW I JUST HAVE TO STEAL HIS LOVE!!

PING
...THAT MAYU WILL DECIDE...
...WHOM MAYU LOVES.

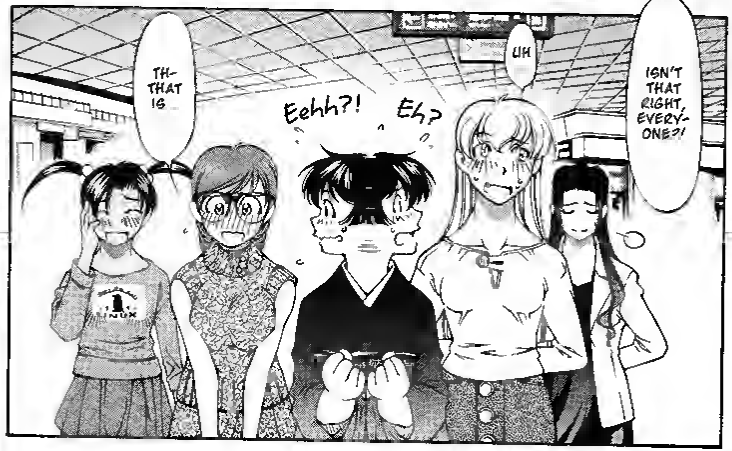

I'M SORRY, LANDLADY-SAN. I THOUGHT SHE'D FINALLY GIVE UP.
Hoooo!
I GUESS YOU CAN'T RELAX YET, AOI-SAMA.

おほほのほ
THE HARDER HE IS TO GET, THE REDDER AND STRONGER MAYU'S LOVE BURNS!!
©HO HO HO HO!

I SEE.
SORRY, AOI-ONEE-CHAN.
I CAN'T LIE TO YOU OR DENY WHAT I FEEL

THE WONDERFUL PERSON KAORU-SAMA IS--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM

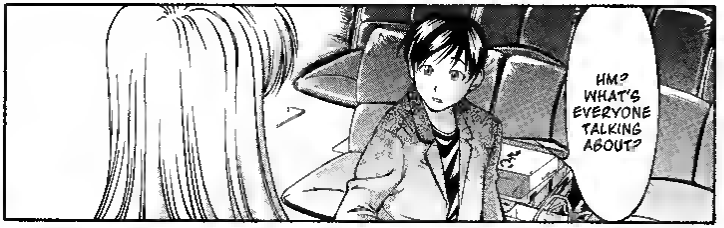
AND JUST BECAUSE YOU AND HANABISHI-SAMA ARE TOGETHER, AOI-SAN
DOESN'T MEAN WE'LL SUDDENLY FALL OUT OF LOVE WITH HANABISHI-SAMA


TH-THAT IS
Eehh?!
Eh?
UH
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EVERY-ONE?!

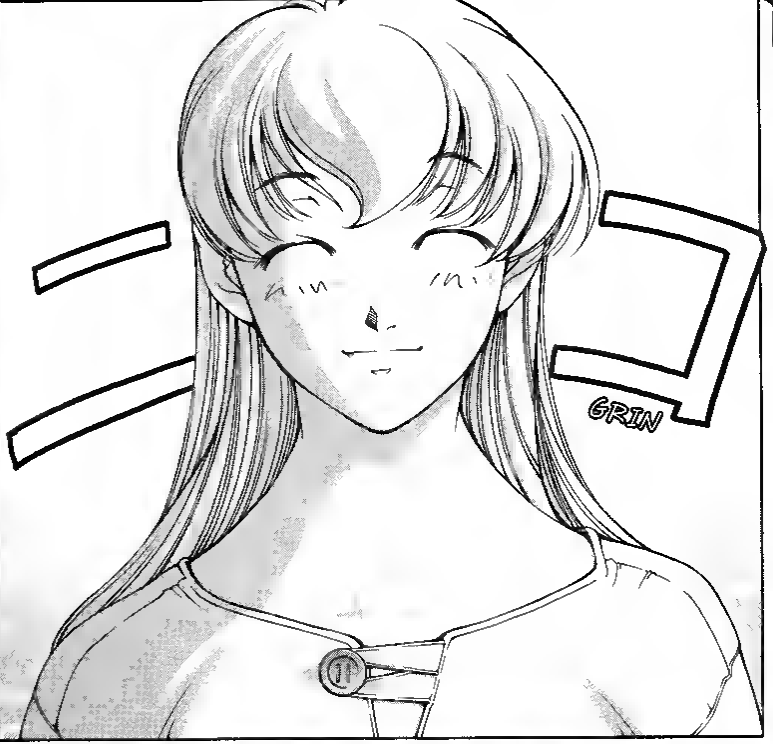
Excuse me! I'd like this, please!
WE ALL LOVE KAORU SO MUCH, WE CAN'T HELP OURSELVES.

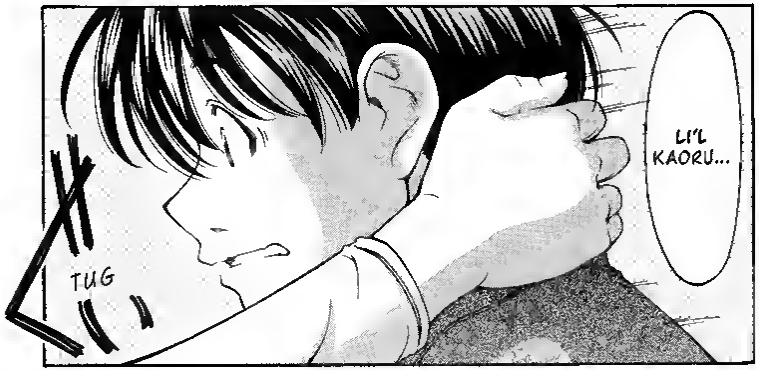
SORRY, LANDLADY-SAN MAYUTCHI'S RIGHT.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING! HOPEFULLY THIS JUNK IS JAPANESE ENOUGH FOR YOU


HM? WHAT'S EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT?

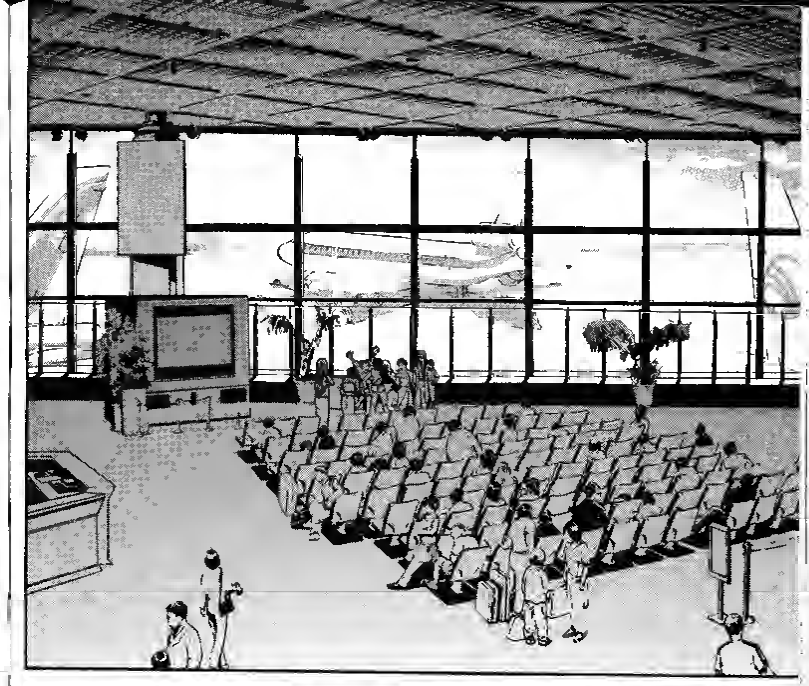
WE WERE JUST GETTING LANDLADY-SAN'S PERMISSION
PER-MISSION? FOR WHAT?


GRIN


LI'L KAORU...
TUG

I LOVE YOU!!

T-TINA-SAN!!
WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING, TINA?
THAT'S NOT FAIR! MAYU GETS ONE, TOO!!
I-I WOULD LIKE A SMALL ONE, TOO
DON'T FORGET CHIKA!!



End of Chapter 140: Hanamuke—Farewell Gift

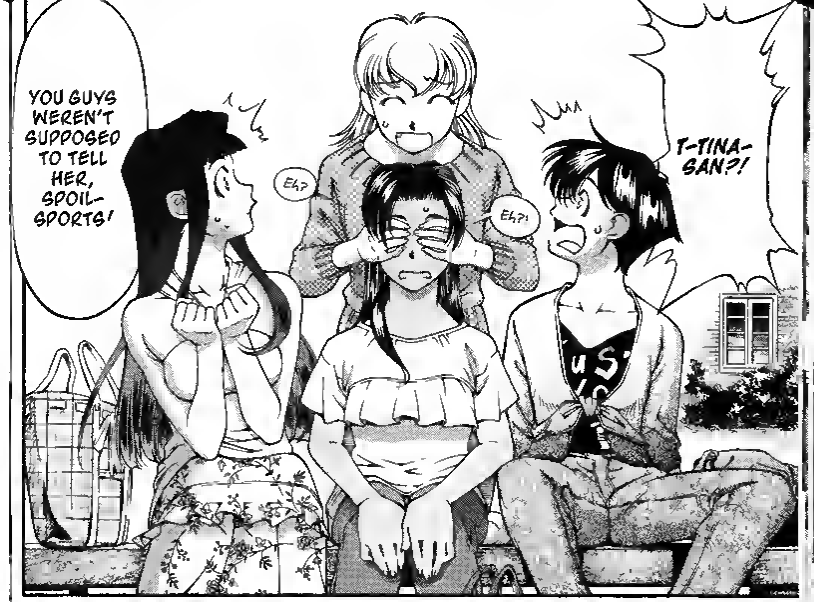
Final Chapter: Ranjou—True Blue

GUESS WHO?!
?!

CLIK
MIN ALTA

...SINCE I SAW JAPANESE CLOUDS
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS

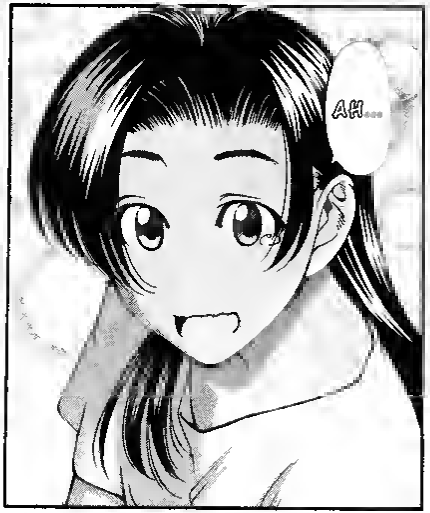
TINA-ONEE-CHAN!!
LONG TIME NO SEE, CHIKARIN!

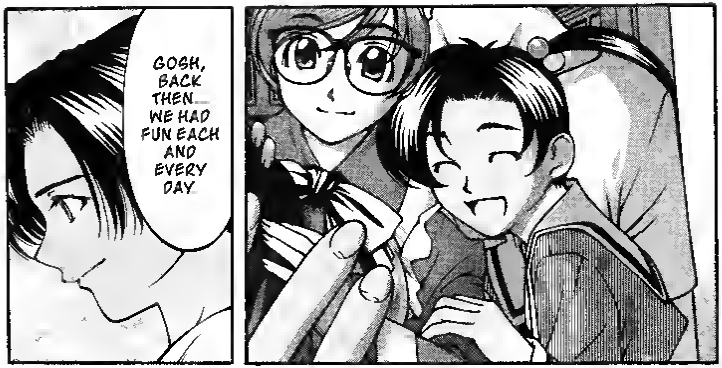

YOU GUYS WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL HER, SPOIL-SPORTS!
EH?
EH?!
T-TINA-SAN?!

Hurray!
Hurray!

SHE'S HERE! IT'S NOT A DREAM!!
CLING
CLING
CLING
CLING
CLING
WAAHH! IT'S REALLY YOU, THE REAL TINA!

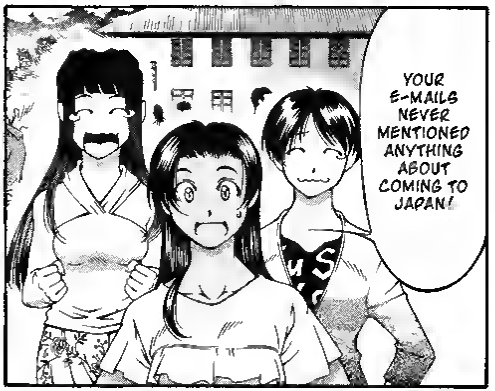
Yo!


AH...

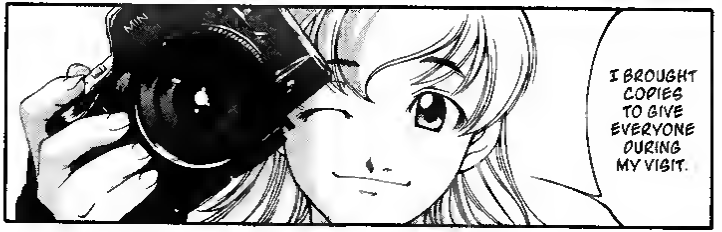

GOSH, BACK THEN... WE HAD FUN EACH AND EVERY DAY.

THANK YOU, TINA-ONEE-CHAN.
THIS IS THE GREATEST GIFT ANYONE COULD GIVE CHIKA.

I WANTED IT TO BE A SURPRISE YOUR EXPRESSIONS ARE PRICELESS!
GRIN


YOUR E-MAILS NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT COMING TO JAPAN!

CHECK THIS OUT.
WOW, THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!!

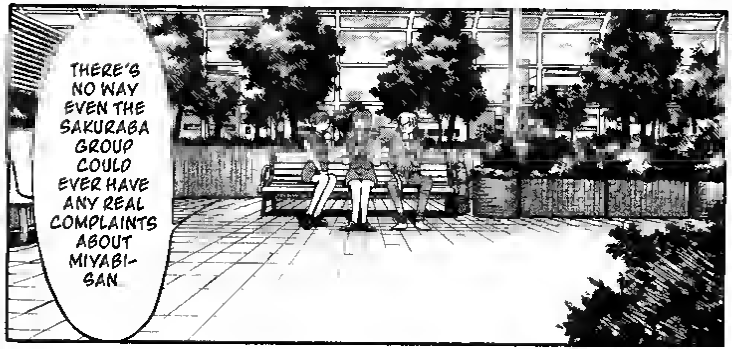

I BROUGHT COPIES TO GIVE EVERYONE DURING MY VISIT.

CLATTER
CLATTER
CRASH
WAAAAH!! I'M SORRYYY!!
TAEKO-SAN?! NOT AGAIN!
FLINCH
Auuuhhh

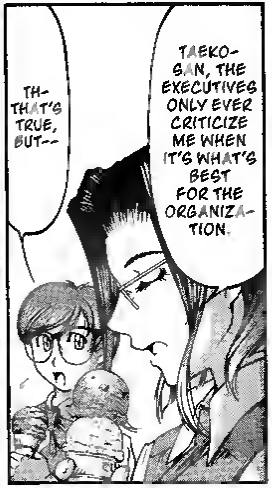
GRAAHH
WHY DO I EVEN WASTE MY BREATH ASKING YOU TO BE CAREFUL?!
Eeek
YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER, TAE-CHIN.
YOU, TOO, MAN-AGER-SAN

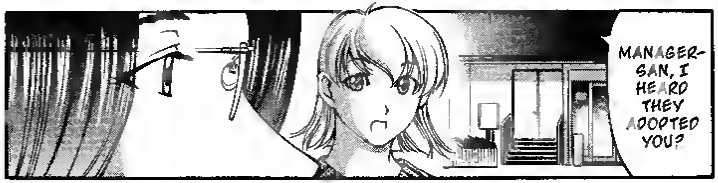
TINA-SENPAI!!
TINA-SAN?!

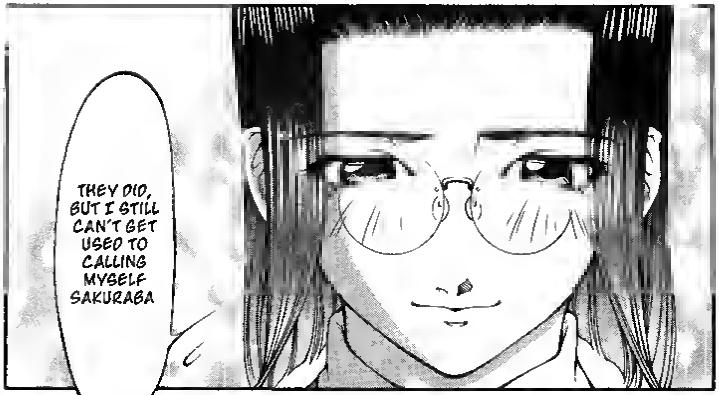
IT'S INCREDIBLE! SINCE MIYABI-SAN BECAME THE MANAGER OF THIS BRANCH, WE'VE HAD THE BEST SALES IN THE NATION.

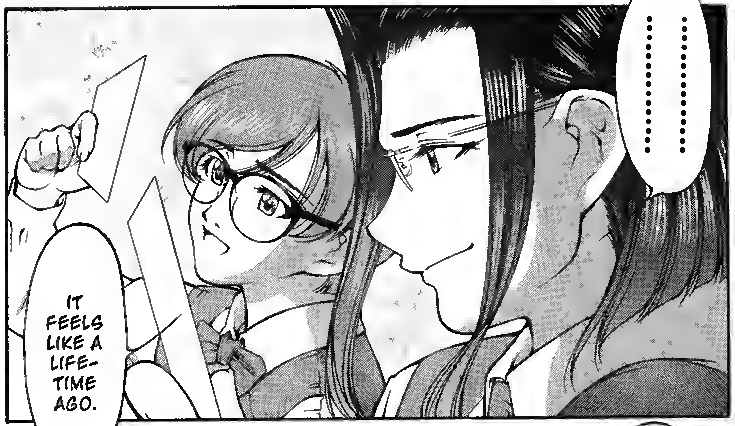

THERE'S NO WAY EVEN THE SAKURABA GROUP COULD EVER HAVE ANY REAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT MIYABI-SAN.

AND FATHER AND MOTHER UNDERSTAND ME COMPLETELY.
はむ MUNCH
はむ MUNCH
はむ MUNCH
THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT, REALLY.


TAEKO-SAN, THE EXECUTIVES ONLY EVER CRITICIZE ME WHEN IT'S WHAT'S BEST FOR THE ORGANIZATION.
TH-THAT'S TRUE, BUT--

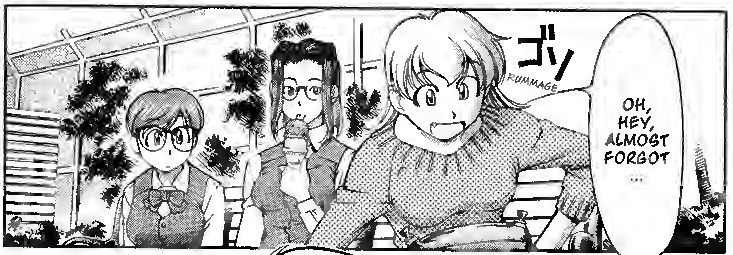

MANAGER-SAN, I HEARD THEY ADOPTED YOU?


THEY DID, BUT I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO CALLING MYSELF SAKURABA

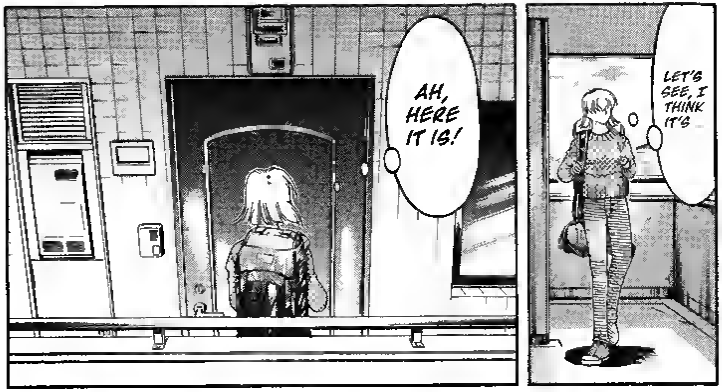

……
IT FEELS LIKE A LIFE-TIME AGO.

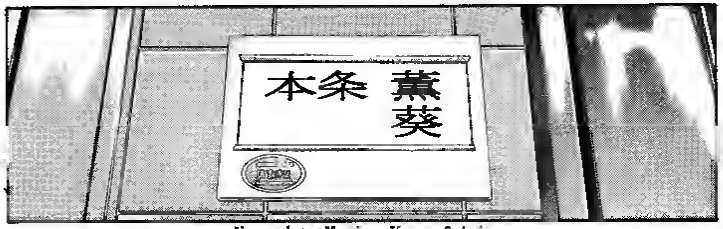
THANK YOU, TINA-SAN. WHAT A HAPPY IMAGE!

ぽぽらーと
屋上ひろば
SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD!

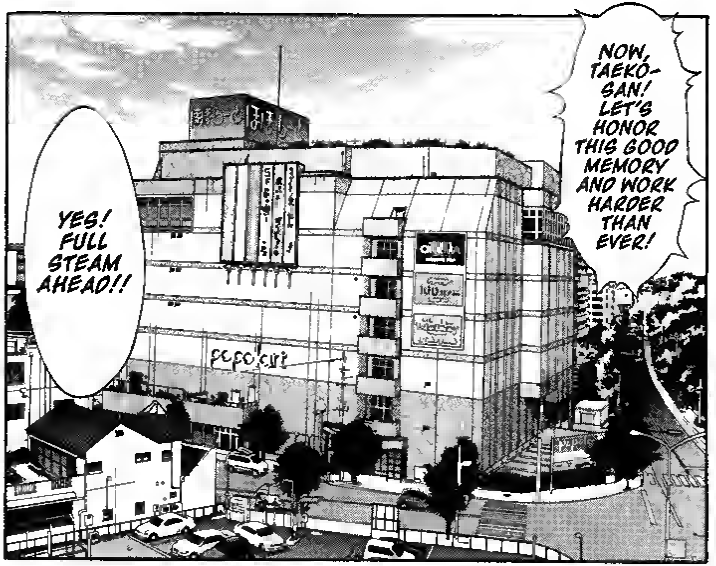

ゴソ
RUMMAGE
OH, HEY, ALMOST FORGOT ...

THESE ARE FOR YOU.
MY, THAT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES.
WAAH!!

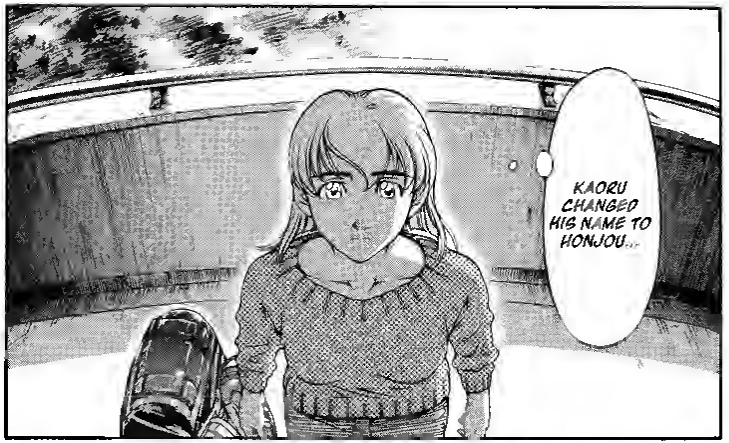


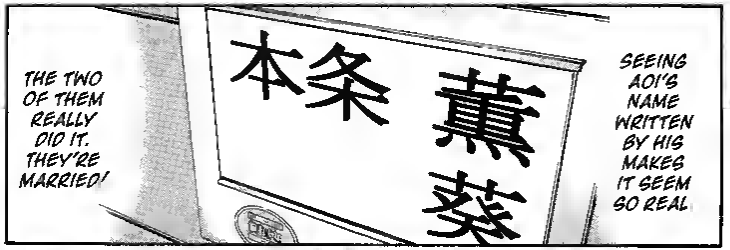


Nameplate: Honjou, Kaoru & Aoi

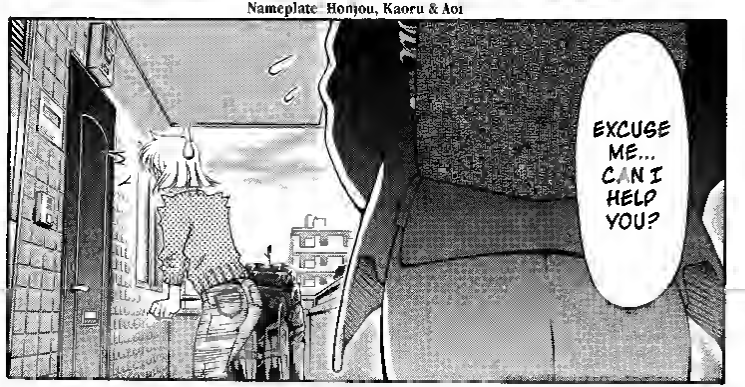


[redacted]

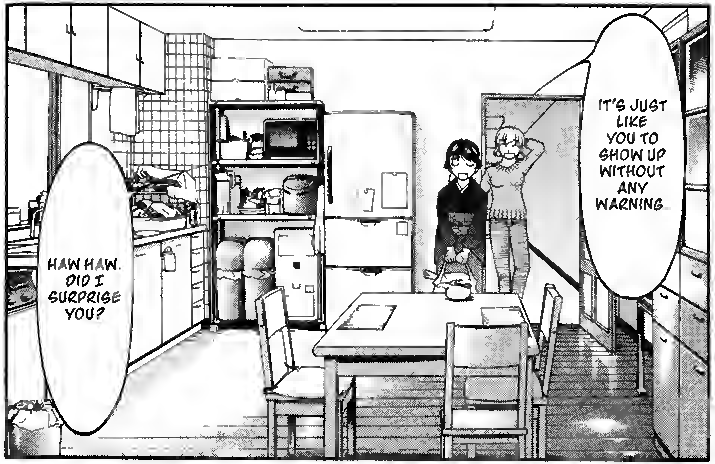


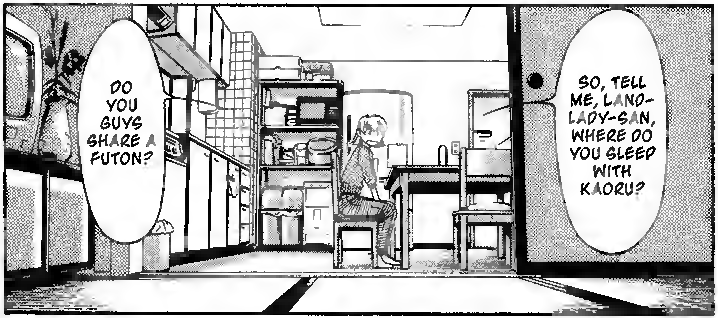


Nameplate: Honjou, Kaoru & Aoi



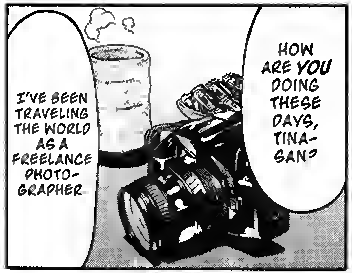
WOW
WHOA
D-DO YOU REALLY NEED TO INSPECT THINGS SO INTENTLY?
OOOHH


IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO SHOW UP WITHOUT ANY WARNING.
HAW HAW. DID I SURPRISE YOU?

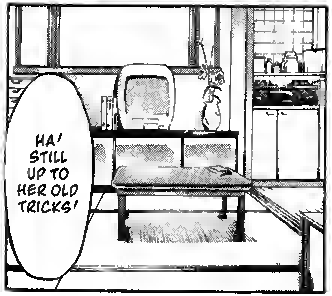

SO, TELL ME, LANDLADY-SAN, WHERE DO YOU SLEEP WITH KAORU?
DO YOU GUYS SHARE A FUTON?

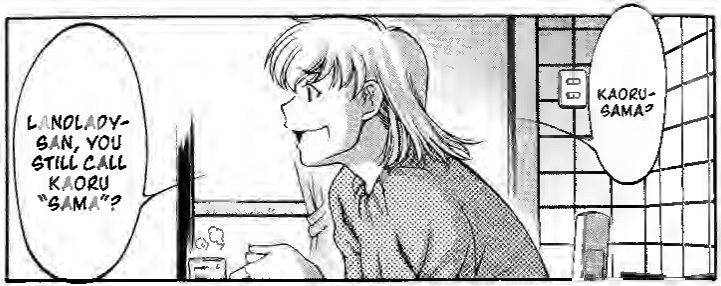
HOW'S UZUME DOING?

ABSOLUTELY!


I'VE BEEN TRAVELING THE WORLD AS A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER.
HOW ARE YOU DOING THESE DAYS, TINA-SAN?

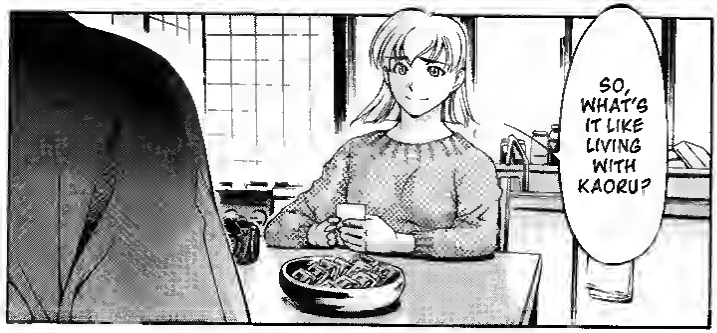
TH-THAT'S PRIVATE!


HA! STILL UP TO HER OLD TRICKS!


LANDLADY-SAN, YOU STILL CALL KAORU "SAMA"?
KAORU-SAMA?

クネ
hee
クネ
hee
クネ
hee
YOU'RE HIS LOVING WIFE NOW. CAN'T YOU FIND A MORE FITTING TERM OF ENDEARMENT?
LIKE KAORUUUN♡ OR DARLING♡?

W-WELL, KAORU-SAMA IS KAORU-SAMA!

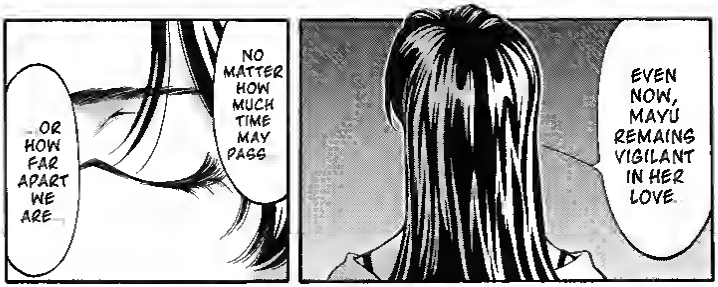

SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING WITH KAORU?

I FEEL LIKE A LOT HAS CHANGED ...
...BUT THEN, IT'S THE SAME AS EVER.

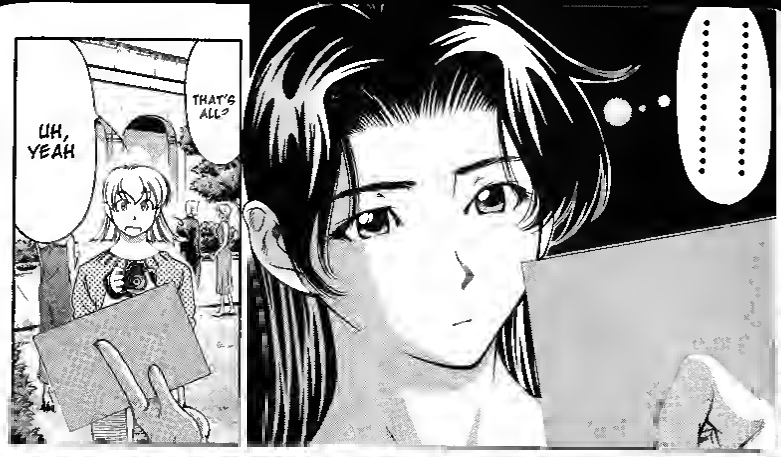
WELL...

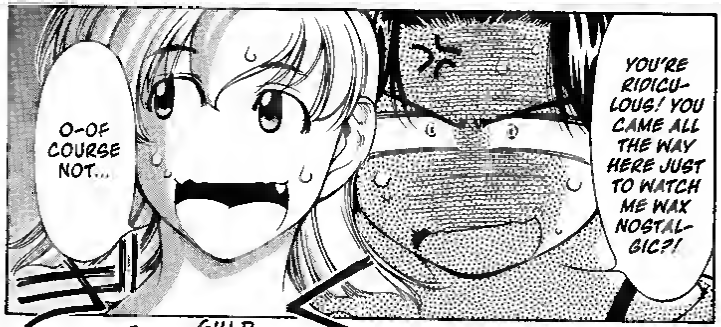
BUT, YOU KNOW, HE'S ALWAYS PUT HIS ALL INTO EVERY TASK.
KAORU-SAMA IS ALWAYS TERRIBLY BUSY WITH WORK.

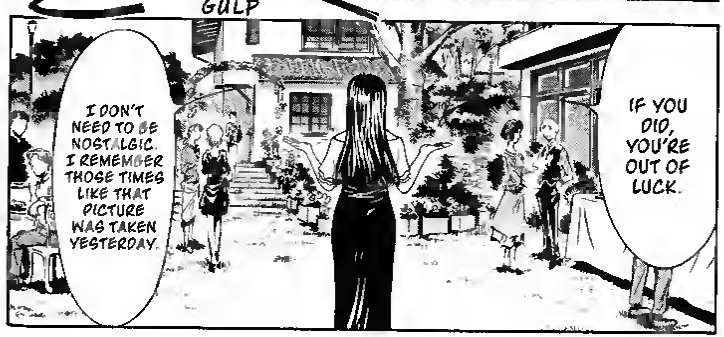
SO, LISTEN BEFORE I CAME TO JAPAN, I WENT TO ENGLAND.
MAYUTCHI'S LIVING OVER THERE NOW, YOU KNOW?
MAN, IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE YEARS, BUT SHE LOOKS WAY DIFFERENT I WAS SURPRISED.
OOHH, MAYUTCHI, THERE YOU ARE
PPPT
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
MAN, IF YOU COULD ONLY SEE YOUR FACE! HAW!
ゴソ
ゴソ
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
THIS IS FOR YOU.
WHAT IS IT?


NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME MAY PASS
...OR HOW FAR APART WE ARE
EVEN NOW, MAYU REMAINS VIGILANT IN HER LOVE.

...KAORU-SAN IS THE FIRST IN MAYU'S HEART.


UH, YEAH
THAT'S ALL?
.....


O-OF COURSE NOT...
YOU'RE RIDICU-LOUS! YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO WATCH ME WAX NOSTAL-GIC?!


GULP
I DON'T NEED TO BE NOSTALGIC. I REMEMBER THOSE TIMES LIKE THAT PICTURE WAS TAKEN YESTERDAY.
IF YOU DID, YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.

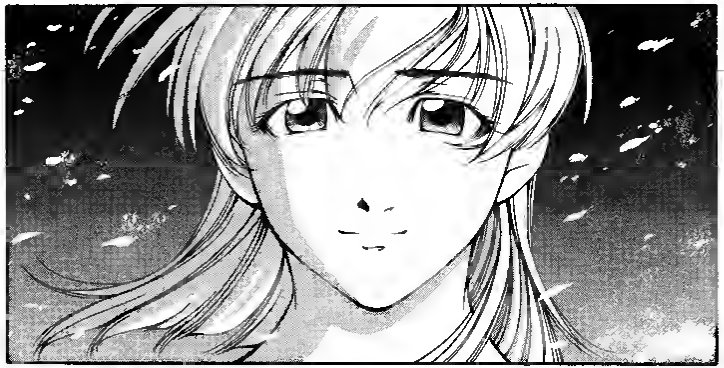
WELL, ANYWAY... I BROUGHT YOU ONE TOO, LANDLADY-SAN.
WAAH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THIS PICTURE SHOWS ALL OUR FUN TIMES...
MINE, KAORU-SAMA'S, AND ALL OF US TOGETHER.

MAYUTCHI IS LIVING NOW EXACTLY THE SAME AS SHE WAS THEN.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE HAPPY
...OR JEALOUS
She just gets prettier and prettier
S-SERIOUSLY?!?
SHE COMES OVER ABOUT ONCE A MONTH.
DROP
YES. MAYU-SAN VISITED US TWO WEEKS AGO.

AA...
HALT

KAORU-SAMA --!

AH!!



MINOLTA
CLIK

ALL OF OUR YEARS TOGETH-ER...
...ARE PACKED INTO THIS ONE PHOTO.

WHOOOA! GORGEOUS!
THERE ARE NO OTHER CHERRY BLOSSOMS LIKE THE ONES IN JAPAN.

WHOOSH

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

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THE
KITTY

SCANLATIONS
RANDOM